WORLD / A22
New N. Korea nuke facility provokes international alarm

SPORTS / A17
Pacquiao willing to seek 9th world title vs Martinez

LIFESTYLE / C1
Running for public school teachers–in the New York marathon

NEWS / A2
US-funded study says killings of journalists persist

Teen idol Justin Bieber beats his elder idols

JUSTIN BIEBER'S first American Music Awards was perfection.

The 16-year-old teen heartthrob went four-for-four on Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila), capturing every award he was nominated for, including the top award of the night, favorite artist.

He beat a list that featured veterans Eminem and Usher as well as Katy Perry and Lady Gaga.

Bieber became the youngest person to ever win the trophy. Bieber also won favorite pop/rock male, and the show's breakthrough artist award.

TEEN A6

Special underwear covers private parts

IT'S A special kind of underwear—with a strategically placed fig leaf designs—and the designer says it'll get you through the airport scanners with your dignity intact.

SPECIAL A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, November 23, 2010 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 348 P18

Maguindanaoans still living in fear

ANDAL AMPATUAN JR.

ANDAL AMPATUAN SR.

'You don't see them, but they are still around'

By Inquirer Mindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao—Tanao and his friends still cannot get enough of Manny Pacquiao, relishing how he made Antonio Margarito a bloody mess to snatch his eighth world title.

But when the topmost moved asking about the massacre of 57 people a year ago today, the mood shifted at the public terminal where the house of Andal Ampatuan Jr. majestically stands amid worn-out buildings and shanties.

"Can we just not talk about it?" Tanao replied.

Fear was even more circumspect. "It's difficult to comment," he said.

"You don't see them, but they are still around," Kamsan said, referring to leaders of the Ampatuan clan who are in jail. They are among 197 people charged in the massacre in Ampatuan town that included 32 media workers.

Maguindanao is the bastion of the Ampatuans, Kamsan stressed.

Of the accused, about 100 are detained while awaiting trial—a process that could take years. The leaders are detained in Manila, yet they have access to mobile phones and other items

MAGUINDANAOANS A6

STILL DEADLY A military tank rolls past the mansion of the clan patriarch, Andal Ampatuan Sr., one of the accused in the Philippines' worst political massacre, in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao. Leaders of the Ampatuan clan remain a major security threat in their home province even from behind bars, locals say. AFP

Darkness falls on Ampatuan mansions

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—The bushes have grown thick outside the cordoned mansion of former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, one of the untouchable politicians until he and other family members were arrested for the massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao on Nov. 23, 2009.

The mansion's massive iron gates are blotted with rust, the blood-red color now pulled. Grasses have crept up the giant beams of the dark high walls. Inside the compound, desolation prevails.

The mansion occupies an entire block in Jasa Subdivision here, which can hold at least 150 low-cost housing units. A contractor said the property could be worth at least P800 million.

At night, the property is dark and eerily silent. "Look at that. Are you not scared? No one is there. Nobody but ghosts," a cab driver said when asked by

DARKNESS A6

Merciless murder of 57 marked today

AN HEROIC memorial, a litany of names, are echoing cry for justice.

DzEQ Radyo Inquirer 990 joins the nation and the world in commemorating the first anniversary of the Maguindanao Massacre, by airing top-of-the-hour tributes to the victims from dawn to dusk today.

The AM broadcast arm of the Inquirer group of companies has prepared an approximately five-minute production spot in remembrance of the gruesome political atrocity on Nov. 23, 2009.

To be aired eight times today, the spot will also recite the names of the 57 individuals confirmed murdered (at seven to eight names per airing), plus that of a 58th victim whose remains have yet to be found.

Radyo Inquirer listeners can catch it at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.; and then at 4 p.m., 5 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Each spot albeit five seconds of white noise—or radio silence—as a form of prayer for the dead. It closes with a message in Filipino: "We will not stop. We will not be silenced. We will never forget."

President Aquino issued last night Proclamation No. 75 declaring Nov. 23 as a National Day of Remembrance for the massacre victims.

MERCILESS A6

PDI man packs a gun, wears bullet-proof vest

By Nikko Dizon

AQUILINO PIMENTEL, Inquirer Mindanao correspondent, owns six wigs of different colors and length, wears a bullet-proof vest when he is in Mindanao, carries a gun and constantly looks over his shoulder. He never sticks to a routine.

With death threats allegedly coming

PIMENTEL A6

Ban on contraceptives stands, say Vatican officials

VATICAN CITY—Vatican officials insist it's nothing "revolutionary" but to many other people Pope Benedict XVI's comments regarding condom use mark an important moment in the battle against AIDS and an effort by the Pontiff to burnish his image and legacy.

In the Philippines, the Pope's remarks immediately sparked a lively debate, with a Malacañang official saying Benedict's comments could boost the argument for the passage of the reproductive health bill. (See related story on Page A8.)

Just a year after he said condoms could be making the AIDS crisis worse, Benedict said that for some people, such as male prostitutes, using them could represent a first step in assuming moral responsibility "in the intention of reducing the risk of infection."

The Vatican's ban on contraception remains, but Alberto Melloni, an Italian church historian, said Benedict "opened without a doubt a crack that cannot help but have consequences."

Benedict stepped where no Pope has gone since Paul VI's famous 1968 encyclical "Humanae Vitae" barred Catholics from using condoms and

BAN A8

TELLING THE FILIPINO STORY TO THE WORLD

Editors' Note: For 25 days, we will be telling stories about the long ruin to mark the paper's 25th anniversary on Dec. 11, 2010. Some are little-known stories but impacting on how we cover unfolding events; some are mark the day stories that become talk-of-the-town types; others are turning point stories that have changed the landscape of history; still others, big or small, seize the heart and never let go.

But whatever, the heaviest will tell you the story.

Present at creation: Hysterical, historical

IN GOOD HANDS Inquirer founding chair Eggie Apostol with former President Cory Aquino and former Manila Times publisher Chino Roces. Apostol says the Roces newspaper legacy lives on in the Inquirer through the Prieto family.

By Eugenia Duran-Apostol
Founding Chair, Philippine Daily Inquirer

(Last of two parts)

WE STARTED with 30 brave employees. At the end of the year, we had 500 who all owned shares in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI). So, I met separately with my Mr & Ms stockholders to tell them of this newspaper concept, explaining to them the unique ownership in which business and government functionaries are not to be allowed to become stockholders.

Maybe they heard differently because later, when the Inquirer became a successful daily, one stockholder

PRESENT! A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/27	
1st	21 8
2nd	11 15
3rd	4 18

SUERTRES	
2pm	7 0 2
5pm	1 7 0
9pm	0 5 5

FOUR ONE	
	2 9 2 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45	
	8 10 21 36 42 45
	P5,376,357.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO	
	17 19 22 25 37 50
	P584,829,925.20

LOTTO 7/49 | 6/49 LOTTO, result in 4847. PCSO photo

Killings of journalists still persist, says study

By Marlon Ramos

KORONADAL, South Cotabato—The killing of journalists and political activists in the country has persisted even after the slaughter of 57 people in Maguindanao last year, a US-funded study showed.

Speaking at a training of left-leaning groups were killed by journalists here on the eve of the massacre's first anniversary, lawyer Al Parreño disclosed that extrajudicial killings continued mainly because of the government's failure to address the problem squarely.

While the slayings brought to international attention the issue of impunity in the Philippines, the government had done little to deal with it, he lamented.

"Since we learned our lessons after the massacre? The figures show we haven't," Parreño said in his presentation.

Since the grisly killings on Nov. 23, 2009, he said 28 members of media have been killed, bringing to 80 cases of extrajudicial killings—including 30 media killings—from 2001 to July 2010, which were reported to the Inquirer but of the Philippines.

"The intensity of the killings and the number of victims killed at one time may be much lower than the Maguindanao massacre, but the murders had been incessant," Parreño said. "The killings had been ongoing in other parts of the country following the massacre."

Of left unchecked, Parreño warned that more journalists and activists may be killed unless the administration at President Benigno Aquino's time during the entire nine-year presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The lawyer pointed out that since Mr. Aquino took his oath as president in June, at least 26 political activists were murdered without their killers being arrested or identified.

linked to recent cases of violence against members of the media, Parreño noted.

Considered the worst election-related violence in the nation's history, the massacre of 57 people, among them 32 media workers, were buried on members of the Ampatuan clan.

Twenty-one members of the powerful political family have since been arrested and jailed, with the primary accused, Andal Ampatuan Jr., charged with multiple murder.

Ampatuan rights lawyer Parreño was the project consultant of the study backed by the US Agency for International Development and the Asia Foundation.

Although the research did not focus on violence directed against journalists, he said the findings clearly indicated that such acts were unabated.

First presented to the public in September, the study evaluated

Villagers leave massacre site, still won't talk

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

AMPATUAN, Maguindanao—Houses have sprouted near the barangay hall of Barangay Salman.

These are owned by families who once lived in three-hectare communities of Sitio Masalay, site of the massacre of 58 people, 32 of them media workers, on Nov. 23, 2009.

They fled their communities several weeks after the mass killings because they were afraid of armed men in the area. Most of the women, however, observed a "ghostly atmosphere" at night, hearing loud cries and yells for help amid the sound of burning tombs.

Although they were the nearest to the crime scene, they are still afraid of speaking up. "We did not hear any gunshot; we heard (only) the sound of a plane," one of them said in Filipino.

One year after Maguindanao is still gripped by the ghosts of desperate last hours.

The massacre was the result of the dogged resistance of the clan patriarch, Andal Sr., not to have someone compete with his son, Andal Jr., for the governorship in the May 14 polls. He could have wanted to monitor every move of those who wanted to his supposed political dominion.

Arroyo supporter

During the 2004 polls, the clan helped reconstruct the winning margin of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the controversial presidential vote. Andal's son, Zaldy, held the gubernatorial seat of the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) since 2005 until he was suspended in December 2009 as an alleged accomplice in the massacre.

Rising into power in 2001, Andal Sr. oversaw a largely family-based network of armed militias who have been accused of human rights violations but have enjoyed impunity. His network flourished by serving as a key bulwark in the government's fight against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Last year, Datu Bonnie Mayor Datu Ampatuan, a first cousin of Andal Sr., related that in his town of 11 barangay, there was really a need for militias because of the absence of military forces. Created on Sept. 4, 2008, the town had only 89 policemen, only one of whom had a firearm.

When martial law was declared in Maguindanao last year, Datu and Datu Bonnie had lawyer-Sen. Antonio Trillanes of the Golden Voluntary Organization (GVO), 50 of them working M16 and Garand rifles. They were complemented by 23 special civilian armed auxiliaries (SCAAs), who are rendered to authorities so that they would be denied of allegations that they took part in the massacre.

The GVOs are under the mayor and paid from local funds, Parreño said.

Network of militias

These militias formed the network of town-based force that could be called in to respond to larger threats in other areas.

The law then the CVOs were called to duty was in 2008 when they were told to ward off a series of MILF forces in Mamasapano town. The "request for troops" was relayed by Andal Sr.

If the military cleared and gave the nod in the operations, "we join them," Sarah said. "It's in the government's interest, it is not wrong," he added in Filipino.

The buildup of local government-financed militias is underpinned by Executive Order No. 546, which allowed the deputization and arming of police-militias in specific areas.

The EO enjoins the Philippine National Police to support the Armed Forces in battling insurgency. Under the directive, the PNP is authorized to deputize barangay tanods (village guards) as force multipliers. The provision is used as basis by local government units for arming the CVOs.

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Students slam cuts in budgets

STUDENTS of state universities in Metro Manila held rallies yesterday to denounce cuts in government subsidies for public colleges.

A walkout of classes was staged at Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) to protest a 33-percent reduction in the budget of the Commission on Higher Education. PUP's budget was also slashed by P33 million.

Students of Philippine Normal University threatened to walkout next week to protest a P92-million cut in budget. Bayan Quiazon

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WORLD boxing champ and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao is awarded the Congressional Medal of Distinction by Speaker Feliciano Belmonte.

House honors Pacquiao with medal, citation, party

By TJ Burgonio

WORLD far agreed to be the country's poster boy for tourism, Manny Pacquiao yesterday backed suggestions that he resign his seat right in Manila, but insisted that he would retire at 35.

The 49-year-old Congressman rolled out the red carpet for the boxing champ and treated him with a mission each a medal of distinction, and later a dinner party.

Pacquiao, who captured his eighth title in as many divisions with his conquest of Mexican Antonio Margarito, said boxing and waging a boxing fight in Manila would cost the government millions of dollars.

"That's possible. But you know if we stage a bout, this will need a big budget. We're talking about $3-million guarantee for the boxers, and that's on top of the production cost. And we're in dire straits, our country sees needs to save," he said in a joint briefing with Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

On Friday, Pacquiao agreed to become the country's poster boy for tourism during his call on President Aquino on Saturday.

Yesterday, the Sarangani lawmaker admitted that he had to plan where to do his duties.

"Pacquiao, Philippines. Just joking," he suggested when asked about a tourism slogan for the country.

Later in the packed plenary hall, all lawmakers and House personnel stood up and applauded Pacquiao as he strode to the center for the handing of the citation and the Congressional Medal of Distinction.

When Belmonte handed him the citation and countered the medal, the crowd erupted into another applause. "This award is beautiful," Pacquiao gushed in Filipino in a grateful speech.

He thanked his colleagues for his support. "The victory over Margarito is not mine alone. It belongs to every Filipino," he said.

Filipinos can succeed in a "world-class arena because of hard work, dedication and faith in the Almighty," he said.

During the briefing, Pacquiao, 31, said he had no intention to another Dreamcon fight next month after the age of 35.

"I've talked to Bong and told her that I'm still good to fight. It's understandable that at my age she got nervous about my fights. Parents have strong fears children get hurt," he said.

He said there's nothing final about who he would fight next.

Pacquiao, who has been fighting in the ring since he was 15, donated one any of his children, including two boys, following in his footsteps.

"I don't want them to become boxers. You work on my boxing paraphernalia at least, not even fighting shoes or gloves. I don't want them to take up boxing, some people may think it's my hard to night," he said.

Pacquiao said he had received invitations to rebuild he would endorse the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and its programs, and, on return, the agency would receive endorsements to Sarangani, instead of paying him much.

NEWSBRIEFS

Oil firms slash prices

FUEL prices went down by 25-96 centavos a liter today, a welcome respite for motorists still a huge difference from the P2-a-liter increase that oil firms imposed last week. Independent blend Philippines Inc. was first to adjust its prices, slashing the price of unleaded gasoline by 25 centavos a liter and diesel and kerosene prices by 96 centavos. Industry leaders Pilipinas Shell Corp. reduced prices by the same levels. Both companies cited lower international oil prices as reason for the price cut.

Abigail L. Ho

No more budget lobbying in Senate

THE SENATE will end entertaining undue lobbying for higher allocations from state agencies or their representatives after President Aquino rejected the submission of all pending requests for adjustments in the 2011 budget, according to Sen. Franklin Drilon. Drilon, chair of the committee on the proposed 2011 General Appropriations Act on Thursday. "This means that whatever has been allocated to a certain agency will be followed. This will relieve us from a lot of pressure from the agencies lobbying for their individual budget. So unless the changes come from the Department of Budget and Management, the allocations stay as they are," Drilon said.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Illegally cut logs seized in Ceron

AC 9006 on a concerned resident's tip, Philippine Coast Guard personnel seized illegally sawn lumber near the resort island of Ceron in northern Palawan. The logs, worth P12,000, were reconfiscated on 150 meters from shoreline of Sitio Rocatan in Barangay Dacalanbo, according to Ens. Wilfredo Tamayo, PCG commander. The Coast Guard officials said a village informant reported that a dockside of the illegally cut lumber was about to be transported by unidentified illegal loggers. The logs have been turned over to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Jerome Aning

SC scraps former lawmaker's petition

THE SUPREME COURT has dismissed a petition of former Quezon Rep. Rey Salapuddin to review a Court of Appeals decision including him as an accessory in connection with the 2001 Bataan bombing, to a letter to the Bataan City Regional Trial Court, the Supreme Court En Banc declared denied Salapuddin's petition for review on certiorari of the appellate court's decisions dated Aug. 6, 2008 and Sept. 24, 2008. The letter was sent to Judge Ralph Lee of the Regional Trial Court in Branch 33, who is hearing the multiple murder and frustrated murder cases against Salapuddin and other accused. The bombing at the House of Representatives complex killed six people, including Salapuddin's political rival, then Bataan Rep. Wahab Akbar.

Jaime B. Aurelio

Palace crisis room opened to media

MALACAÑANG yesterday opened the doors of the Presidential Situation Room (PSR) for the "first and last time" to journalists in an early afternoon gate assurance that Manny Mendiola terror alert since at a "moderate" level, meaning as mentioned attacks by radical groups. Hosted inside the National Security Assessment Center in Malacañang, the PSR is a "complex of rooms" where security officials would be monitoring situations around the country round the clock "to give the President a situational awareness of what's going on in the country that might have an impact or implication on a national security level," It also becomes a venue for President Aquino and his aides to plan and formulate strategies in times of national crisis like natural disasters or attacks, mass casualties, scrap attempts and possibly pandemics.

Christine D. Avendaño

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Present at creation: Hysterical, historical

From page A1

Ignacio who?) zeroed in on selling Mr. & Mrs. Illegality.

The cooperative idea was certainly a new type of media ownership—newspapers owned by those who work for it, a chance for the staff to have money without looking their souls.

But before the synergy could be internalized, the joining members of the staff were attracted to resistance, which were soon overpowered.

Although thwarted, the PDI officers and crew formed the union in 1987 and gave the employees what is known to be the most generous collective bargaining agreement in the industry.

The legal personality of the Incorporators was that of a cooperative with the idea that we were going to make it a cooperative. But it didn't happen.

We were getting from the employees P50 every pay day against their shares. In 13 months, they had enough shares but since they preferred to remain employees, they sold their shares. Each paid-up share was worth P1,000 as reported in the July-August 1986 issue of Veritas, my second favorite publication, mostly to the chief operating officer at that time, Danny Dimla.

Much, much more

The profit sharing was 10 percent of the entire net profit. Management got 5 percent and the rest was distributed among the employees. That wasn't much really considering the base on, for example, in one year the profit share of each employee was P100,000. There were 200 employees, which means P20 million.

That 10 percent profit was small compared to what they would have had if they were shareholders. Which, much more, because it was only one-tenth of the profits divided among 200 people.

When I left the business in 1994, the profit was P58 million. One-tenth was all the employees received—P6 million.

'You can have it'

After the employees' shares were sold, the COO called me one day and said, "Mrs. Aparisi, you better talk to your lawyer because I turn over 54 percent of the shares."

I said, "OK, you can have it all. Anyway, I'm not interested in a corporate business. It's not the newspaper that I like, so forget the cooperative paper that I dreamed of. So you can have it. PDI-type personal ownership meant he would become the new chair."

But then, Mr.Jes Profe, from whom we borrowed P.6 million or less a year, heard about this and they said that Mrs. Aparisi cannot go because the government owes PDI P6 million. So I got stuck. Mr. Nvarra had to sell part of his shares.

I just don't know exactly the timing now but at that time, when the business was really running to stratosphere, I needed professional help to manage the business side, about which I knew so little about.

I heard of two employees who had been fired from the Bulletin by Mr. Emilio Yapaol who had been there for years and knew the business side of the newspaper inside out. I asked to see them and I offered them shares to be business. 49 percent. They were Shanty Dimayuga and Bob Pangilinan.

Who owned those 49 percent?

The shares were there and I gave part to them. I gave Danny the COO, had given them up.

Were the shares paid for by Quinnson and Danny Dimla?

I am not sure now of the arrangement.

All my shares were in the name of Jaro, the company of my husband. Jose appointed certainly was unaware of the requirements. Out the door should have a share—at least one to become chair.

Corporate war

The result was I was removed as chair even if I owned 49 percent of the stocks. The business executives to whom I had given 49 percent of shares in the business wanted more control. They sure the potential of PDI as a media. They even filed a case against me to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The remaining 2 percent was owned by a few other members of the editorial staff who had opted to hang on to their stocks even after all the out-opted for a union.

As the new stockholders meeting, I unjoined the new board with the votes of the 2 percent minority, whom I brought in with me, and I regained membership. The win four years before I decided to sell my shares to present politicians from getting any of the shares.

At about the same time, Jesperson Pantoja filed a suit against me in 1989 for "mismanaging" life & life. Family really wanted to come into PDI.

When a case is filed against you, they freeze your shares. Luckily for 1994, the SEC became undecided to my favor. There, my shares were released and I decided right there and then to sell all my shares so family would never get hold of even a single one.

Although I had won in the lower court, I knew the case would be filed in the SEC en banc, the Court of Appeals and all the way to the Supreme Court.

Chair resigns

A chair going to a politician?

That I would never, never, never allow. That would destroy the newspaper. So I declared to all concerned in 1993... before the case was filed in the SEC en banc.

Lawyer Enrique Razon didn't want me to do it. "No, don't sell your shares. We're gonna win this case!" I said, Enrique, I cannot be any well win because we still have years of litigation coming. And I'd rather just sell my shares so there's no longer be a question."

Within two weeks, I sold those shares to Eduardo Espiritu. Some people thought it was really make believe. They didn't think I was really serious.

Jose knew I had really sold my shares. That was August 1993. In January 1994, at the first board meeting I resigned as chair because I had no more shares.

In the meantime, the Petrons had come in and Eduardo Espiritu gave them his vote and Marixi Petrin became the new board chair.

Professionals in media

Media should be owned chiefly by professionals. There are two kinds—the business managers and the editorial managers. When a newspaper is just beginning, business and editorial are usually together. If it's when the paper starts making money that the conflict begins, as in any other business.

My should emphasize to all who join the paper that ethics is basic within the context of what I can see evolving as a PDI corporate culture.

While the developing technology news may be made to travel faster than it does today. But whether now or in the future, the basic and greater concern will always be the reliability of the news and the appreciation and interpretation of that news by qualified professionals.

For that reason, ownership will be a factor to reckon with. Behavior and maintenance could easily be controlled and used for authoritarian ends. Only a responsible, stable-based ownership of media can prevent misuse through control.

Responsible media, which the business they be in any and day one, balance power with countervail, control with freedom.

No meddling in editorial

In media ownership generally, the business of owners certainly will influence the newspaper they own. In this case, the businessmen of the Petrons are mostly in real estate and food franchising. They are also in the newspaper, the better for the Petrons. But this business interest should not influence the paper. Generally they're removed from the operations of the paper.

Marixi is married to a Rizzers Petrin [Her husband is a Petrin, her father, a Petrin]. The way the Rizzers on their paper (permarital law Manila Times), they did not use it for their own interests. They know they should stay away from the editorial group. It was the most independent and most respected newspaper then, with the highest circulation.

When I left, I again told Marixi to allow editorial to maintain its independence because that is the best way to handle a newspaper. So when some of their friends complain to them about stories they think are unfavorable to them or whatever, the Petrons just ask their friends to write a letter to the paper. The Inquirer publishes this and clarifies the matter. No censorship before publication.

I think it is also clear to the readers that the PDI maintains its independence.

Petrons independent

Were there any changes when the Petrons took over? So, they really kept the business independent. And they continue to make new journalist recruits vow to adhere to journalistic ethics.

The business is also the only newspaper in the country with an ombudsman in the person of the readers' advocate. (She is now a headhunting for a new one. -Ed.)

The PDI owners have an understanding of what a free press should be. Just like the Inquirer, who did not meddle or hardly meddle in its affairs. Chino Roces was very active in his paper, but he never meddled in its affairs. Now Randy Peters Romualdez heads the PSE. She is doing a great job of maintaining the newspaper's independence.

Owners with readers

In sum, I have tried to express the vision of the PDI from its founding as an institution for and of professionals, through responsible, broad-based media ownership, with an editorial policy of fairness, commitment to informed issues and the courage to stand for issues that have meaning to the lives of Filipinos.

I would also like to stress the paper's underlying sense of oneness with the readers. Since it serves as the action line for the people, reader participation is highly encouraged.

Daily commitment

This is no longer a dangerous game as in the time of Marcos, when the object was to get him one of our lives as he was an obstacle to our development as a people.

The long struggle was only done when democracy was restored. It was also an active player for the restoration of the people's right to the pursuit of liberty and their dreams.

The business is for a daily commitment for the long haul—to become a pillar of a democratic society.

That is my values for the paper that I founded 23 years ago.

Or, is it just the moon is my mind?

APOSTOL: The liquidit has maintained its independence.

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Mangudadatu finds it difficult to forgive

BULUAN, Maguindanao—A year after his wife, two sisters, and 54 other people were killed in the Philippines' worst political massacre, Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu can't find it in his heart to forgive his enemies.

Mangudadatu's ascent to the highest position in Maguindanao came at a high price in blood.

Mangudadatu's family—one of the rivals who pegged him—supporters and journalists were on their way to submit his candidacy papers a year ago today when they were abducted and gunned down allegedly by members of the rival Ampatuan clan.

"I am still grieving. And he[giving under these circumstances is very difficult to do," Mangudadatu's underdog bid against Prospero Pichay from his office in his provincial stronghold of Buluan.

Mangudadatu, 43, said that the slow pace of justice—Ampatuans clan members have been charged with murder but their trials are expected to take years—was adding to his grief.

Speedy justice

"There needs to be justice, speedy justice. That is still wanted for. All I ask for is that they [the victims'] do not be forgotten and the wheels of justice turn faster," he said, his voice quivering with emotion.

Mangudadatu's wife of 19 years, Genalyn, led a runway on Nov. 23 last year to file her husband's election candidacy for the governorship, a position that the Ampatuan patriarch had appointed son of his sister to occupy.

Mangudadatu had decided not to join the convoy amid warnings he would be killed, but said he thought that the Ampatuans would not harm the women and a contingent of 32 media workers who were invited with them.

"I was wrong. This is the darkest moment in Maguindanao history and they should be remembered as martyrs," he said.

Until the massacre, the Ampatuans had enjoyed an uneasy alliance, and together both families had controlled virtually all aspects of Maguindanao life, from business to politics.

Arroyo patronage

From 2001 to the massacre, the Ampatuans' power and wealth skyrocketed (the Mangudadatus became the poorest), amid Ampatuan Jr., enjoyed the patronage of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Right massacre was drawn to the global eye to the Ampatuans' brutal excesses, including allegations of corruption and chainsaw murders, and instead empowered the clan's vast private army as a proxy force against Muslim rebels.

Mangudadatu is now faced with the challenge of trying to bring development to Maguindanao, a remote province with striking Polish sited for agriculture but ruined to poverty and a long-running Moro separatist rebellion.

Adding to the challenge are the Ampatuans' hundreds of loyal armed followers who have sworn allegiance to remote hilly areas to avenge the attack.

"But I am optimistic that we can rise up to become a better province, not one where there is a tarnished reputation of murders taking place all the time," Mangudadatu said.

Human rights groups have questioned whether the tradition of conflict in Maguindanao will be quickly ended. They point out, the Mangudadatus—like many other political families—also maintain their own armory here. AFP

Maguindanaoans still living in fear of the Ampatuans

From page A1

of communication.

On the other side of the road stands the house of suspended Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, one of the accused. Similar houses belong to the sons, daughters and relatives of the convicted. The Ampatuan family patriarch, Datu

The names of those residents who spoke to the Inquirer are not read to protect them from reprisals.

No armored cars at gates

Last year's massacre was meant to stop a politician from a rival family, Esmael Mangudadatu, from contesting the governorship of the province.

Mangudadatu eventually won the post in the May 2010 polls, but the Ampatuans lost their political support from then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo amid the fallout of the massacre.

Unlike the days when the Ampatuans were physically dominant in the former provincial capital, no armored vehicles were parked by the gates of the houses. A few uniformed men were posted by the government-issued guard the houses against robbers and vandals.

"The good thing is that we don't see them anymore. The bad thing is that there are few people buying from me now," said Zaldia, a store owner.

When asked what she thinks of the new provincial leadership, Zaldia said: "Just OK."

"I wished they did not move the capitol away, but they are the ones in power," she said. Reminded that Mangudadatu's wife was also in security concerns, she added: "That's good for him. Sir don't really know."

'Beware of people'

"The victims were really pitiful," Zaldia said. But she stopped talking when asked about the cases against the Ampatuans.

Barnals and many followers of the Ampatuan clan were still around. "Beware of the people you talk to," he told the Inquirer.

The residents know that the followers of the Ampatuans are so committed to protecting their patrons that they would sacrifice their lives to shield them from harm, even if perceived, Barnals said.

"If I were free that Andal Jr. clan most of the victims, nobody from among his men would talk about it," he said. He also accused himself.

Clan still in control

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, the spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command, said it was understandable if people would not talk about the massacre. "The leadership of the clan is still Ampatuan," he said by phone.

Cabangbang cited one proof. One of the 56 casualties who belong to the clan is not allied with the Ampatuans, only two lost in the Oct. 25 hostage-and Sanggumang Rahmans electronic.

"For the ordinary people, they know that the members of the clan are still there, still in power," he said. They still lack a sense of security, he added.

"The mission of the highway is safe because we have soldiers there," Cabangbang said of the battalion fielded in this part of town. The only problem though that the military helps address is the lawless element in community such as theft of properties.

But outside the town proper, remnants of the Ampatuan militia still roam, Cabangbang said. "There are remnants group we can't go to [because of the presence of Moro rebels] and there are hiding there," he said.

Benevolent godfather

A longtime governmental rival player described Ampatuan Sr as a benevolent godfather to those who were loyal to him, but a vengeful and violent man to those who were against his will.

"No one dares to go against him," he said as a column of soldiers marched and armored personnel carriers patrolled the main highway amid heightened tensions just ahead of today's first anniversary of the massacre.

But Mangudadatu, whose wife was among his years victims, said many of the clan's loyal armed followers continued to elude a police manhunt by hiding in Maguindanao's remote hilly areas.

He blamed those holdouts for the murders of at least five prosecution witnesses, including a former Ampatuan militiaman who was gunned down in July and whose death had been widely reported.

"They remain very dangerous and can receive instructions any time from the Ampatuan headand through mobile phones," Mangudadatu told Agence France-Presse.

Blustering the security threats, Mangudadatu has chosen not not to set up his governor's base in Shariff Aguak, preferring a town with fewer lampposts links, about 10 kilometers away.

'Very, very afraid'

Ampatuan Jr. rose to prominence in the 1970s as a leader of a paramilitary group before entering politics as a mayor in Maguindanao province.

He later became provincial governor and—with the help of power and wealth by allegedly taking over vast tracts of land by force and by eliminating others families that were seen as a threat, according to Human Rights Watch.

The family's power grew even stronger under the patronage of Arroyo, who used the Ampatuans and their militia of up to 5,000 men as a proxy force against Moro rebels who have waged a decadeslong insurgency in Mindanao.

The continued violence has left people like Bai Sema Sakirul, with little hope of seeing her 18-month-old granddaughter grow up in a place where she can play without fear of being abducted or harmed.

"We are still very very afraid," Marifelsakirul said, as she lined up to receive a cash dole as a displaced municipal building in a town named after the Ampatuans.

"Yesterday, we are reminded of them," she said, pointing to a fading campaign poster on a wall showing Zaldy Ampatuan, one of the clan leaders in jail awaiting trial. With a report from AFP

Darkness falls on Ampatuan mansions

From page A1

the location to pass by the neighborhood one night.

Gone are the workers and guards. Although it was still under construction when the whole world was shocked by the grisly massacre, the mansions are empty in the subdivision where some of Datuar's rich families live.

Just a few meters away is the house of former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., father of Zaldy. Caretakers occupy the house, the three guard shacks which is the neighborhood boasts peace.

"They are already gone. It's peaceful here. Sometimes, a few people come, but not as many as before. And the cars! Before there is a convoy," one neighbor said.

"We have been sleeping well since they were gone. Gone are the people who display their wealth, so if it is really there where we all know that it is poor, it's money. Come on, the people who offend values and do-

SOLDIERS guard the massive gates of the palatial Ampatuan residence at Jose Sakirbinan in Datuar City shortly after government forces raided the Ampatuan house in Datuar City last year. AFP PHOTO/ROMEO GACAD

ers," another said.

Another resident in Market Heights Subdivision also looks desolate since the massacre.

Mansfrasities

For many the massacre of the Ampatuans are monstrosities.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu, whose wife and relatives were among the massacre victims, said the mansions represented unexplained wealth and "of what kind of people (the Ampatuans) are."

"The Ampatuans have a 2,000 hectare ranch. How were they able to accumulate that huge property?" he said.

In Buluan town in Maguindanao, Mangudadatu recently asked a visitor who used to live in Ampatuan's mansion in Datuar. "Why did you leave? Why did we have to leave? Are you curious, too?"

Land-grabbing

The visitor said many Muslims were forced to join the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) because of the abuses of the Ampatuans.

"Why did Datuar Esmael become a rebel? Because the land of his family was grabbed by the Ampatuans. And Misuari [ambassador of Datu Piang]? And Asal Bahla Datu? Those are just some of the victims," Mangudadatu said.

A top official in Davao City, who requested not to be named, said that the money used to build the Ampatuan mansions in the city was "people's money."

"But this is real Srawman (Moro street) and the money of foreign donor agencies. Look, Maguindanao is the poorest province in the Philippines and the quo-

tas to—how can officials representing the poorest part of the country possibly have these mansions?" he said.

Need for audit

Gabriela Rep. Luz Ilagan said the "unconscionable, scandalous and shameful wealth of the Ampatuans" should be thoroughly investigated. "How they finish their wealth is urban legend to Mindanao," she said.

Ilagan listed some questions that need to be asked. How can they be so rich in the midst of massive poverty in Maguindanao? How was the budget allotted for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao spent? Is there a Commission on Audit report on the expenditures, considering that the Ampatuans occupied high government positions?

Mari Pa Tengco of the human rights watchdog Karapatan-Southern Mindanao said the quest for justice for the Ampatuan victims must include a scrutiny of the family's wealth.

"Many of the family lives were lost and human rights abused because of their greed. Blood was spilled as the family accumulated wealth," Tengco said.

"The mansions of the Ampatuans reflect the extent of corruption in the country—acts of guns, goons and gold (to mix metaphors)," she added.

Merciless murder of 57 marked today

From page A1

"I call on the Filipino people to solemnly look the departed in their thoughts, and for all the citizens from all walks of life to unite in the struggle in the quest for justice for the victims," Mr. Aquino said.

At the house of Representatives, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada filed a resolution declaring Nov. 23 as Philippine Press Freedom Day to remind the enemy of the disappearances.

Estrada said the day would "serve as a fitting reminder that we will never forget the sacrifices of these journalists who gave up their lives in the pursuit of their profession."

The National Press Club of the Philippines and the stations ng Filipinong Mamamahayag organized a Mass and a memorials yesterday in memory of the 32 media workers killed in Maguindanao.

In Cotabato City Auxiliary Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo yesterday asked the military and the police to provide security for those attending commemorative activities.

Bagaforo said Sunday's bomb explosion and the succeeding skirmishes near Shariff Aguak town may be connected to last year's massacre. The blast reportedly hurt the son of Vice Mayor Bimay Mamar Ismar Ty and Islandon Ampatuan.

But Chief Supt. Agrimero Cruz, the Philippine National Police spokesperson, said the two incidents were behind the bombing.

Bike for Peace

Magdalo is leading a "Bike for Peace" as part of the celebration of Mindanao Week of Peace on Nov. 23-Dec. 1.

Peace groups from other dioceses in Mindanao along with Muslim and Christian groups will converge at the massacre site on Nov. 25 to offer prayers for the victims.

Students supporting black dots to candles yesterday afternoon at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños in Laguna and at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas City Center.

"Being the non-combatant, we fear the fact that justice has not been served. It really is a big issue in journalism," Regine Cruzada, chair of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines in Southern Tagalog, said on Monday.

Towns to be renamed

Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu, veteran wife and two sisters were among those massacred, told the Inquirer that the provincial government would rename seven towns named after the Ampatuan clan members. He said he requested the provision to be completed before the end of his three-year term.

"They do not own the towns. The people should be the ones who will determine how their towns ought to be named," he said.

Bagaforo to be renamed are Datu Unsay, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Hoffer, Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Salibo and Rajahnay.

Private armies

Unsay is Andal Ampatuan Jr., the principal suspect in the murders. Hoffer and Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. are also brothers who died in separate incidents a few years ago. Mamasapano was an uncle of family patriarch Andal Ampatuan Sr., while Salibo was a grandfather that Shariff Aguak is an extension of the clan.

Sam Lanfi, a program director of the London-based Amnesty International, called on President Aquino to dismantle private armies.

"If President Aquino is serious about ending the violence associated with private armies, he should revoke Executive Order No. 546 at once," Lanfi said.

"The fact that private armies continue to operate a year after the Maguindanao massacre is an affront to the victims and an invitation to further disasters."

EO 546 allows the deputization of barangay tanod (village watchmen) to help in maintaining peace and order.

However, Department of National Defense spokesperson Eduardo Ano said the military would not disband the paramilitary Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU), saying what happened in Maguindanao was a result of "blatant abuse."

Batas said Calgos were needed to support military forces in fighting insurgency groups. "The Armed Forces would not allow them to be used to serve as private armies of powerful politicians.

He said the military is instead "taking steps to professionalize" Calgos by ultimately phasing them under the supervision of the army's Special Forces Regiment for better discipline and training. With reports from Yuli Contreras, Christine O. Avendaño, Alcinte Papa, Jerome Aning, TJ Burgonio, Jeannette I. Gamil, Mike Blanche, Leila B. Salaverria and Bong L. Pasco in Manila; Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao; and Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Palace urges Church to show 'flexibility'

By Christine O. Avendaño and Jocelyn R. Uy

A MALACAÑANG official yesterday urged the Catholic Church to show "flexibility" on the issue of Pope Benedict XVI's latest statement on the issue of condoms, even as the local clergy stood behind its opposition to artificial contraception.

In a book of interviews that came out Tuesday, Benedict says that condom use is acceptable "in certain cases," notably to reduce the risk of HIV infection, apparently softening his once hardline view.

"Since the book is not yet released, and I think the bishops of the Philippines have not yet read it, we could not make any definite statements on the matter," said Mojo Annette Figuera, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

"For the moment, what is clear as reported is that the Holy Father's latest teaching on condoms are those not in any way change the position of the Church against artificial contraception," Figuera explained.

The uptake of condom use is permissible if, not the primary tool, to arrest further spread of the HIV virus. Condoms is not the moral solution to the alarming spread of the virus and disease," he added.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that "the Pope has now spoken" and that "another person would be free from the obligation to follow the guidance of our Pope."

Boost to RH bill

Commentators say Secretary Ricky Carandang and Bro Armida Siguion-Reyna's move by most people from the Pope."

He said Benedict's remarks on the use of condoms in stopping the spread of AIDS "should result in a corresponding flexibility on the part of our Church."

Whether the Pope's statement would boost the chances of the reproductive health (RH) bill passing in Congress, Carandang said that would be the "next effect."

The RH bill pushed for the use of contraceptives to stem population growth.

The Pope has shown some flexibility on an issue that is still controversial here," Carandang said.

"It's not controversial in the rest of the world anymore. I think the Pope's pronouncements should inform the position of the local clergy."

Not about birth control

Retired Catholic bishop Deogracias Iñiguez Jr. said Benedict was not talking about birth control.

"He's not talking about birth control. He's talking about the spread of the HIV virus," Iñiguez said.

Iñiguez said the Pope's statement would help the Church in its campaign against artificial contraception.

"It will help us in our campaign against artificial contraception," he said.

Former Bishop Broderick Pabillo said the statement would not change the Church's position on artificial contraception.

"The Church's position is still the same," Pabillo said.

Pabillo said the Pope's statement was "not a change in doctrine."

"It's a change in pastoral approach," he said.

Lagman, author of the respective health measure House Bill No. 96, has said that the Pope's remarks were a departure from the Church's silent but deadly approach to contraception and undermined Church opposition to the RH measure.

Not official

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad, a prolific advocate, said those pushing for the passage of the RH bill should not consider the Pope's remarks to their advantage.

"It's not an official Vatican statement. It doesn't support the fight for the RH bill," Tatad said in a forum sponsored by the UP Alumni Association.

Sen. Pia Cayetano said the Pope's statement would have "no crushing effect" on contributing that opened and only to household finances. "With reports from BV Bangsamoro, Aella M. Marcelo and SE S. Cabuenagan ds.

PDI man packs a gun, wears bullet-proof vest

From page A1

from a group backing illegal mining and a family being cited for the illegal-detainee maneuvers. Ilana are among the safety measures Zonio takes every day to survive.

"I have been marked for death due to the nature of the job I have written on the subversion and illegal-detainee," Zonio said during last week's forum at the University of the Philippines Diliman to mark the first anniversary of the massacre.

Since 2004, the 43-year-old Davao-born lawyer playing a cat-and-mouse game with the people linked by those who want to silence him for exposing the illegal mining in Mindanao.

He also escaped the Maguindanao massacre and survived a bullet to the head in other colleagues. he took a pit stop that separated him from the convoy that was attacked allegedly by Andal Ampatuan Jr. and his henchmen.

Which means Zonio has been living the life of a man under constant threat for the last six years.

It's not even inside of a life sentence.

As a father, Zonio assures small family joys, such as bringing his 11-year-old son to school, so as not to put the young boy's life in danger just in case he is attacked.

Gym

He could no longer go to the gym as much as he wants so as not to establish a routine.

When the threats become palpable, Zonio leaves the house he shares with his elderly parents and his relatives about his whereabouts.

And he worries that if his enemies get frustrated, they might turn on his parents instead. His father is 71 years old and his mother is 70.

Climbing back inside, Zonio said he would avoid those who reveal the list on page to his close friend, Rony Rebllando of Manila Bulletin, who vanished his back and gave him the heads up whenever the latter received warnings from his own sources.

Rebllando was among the 32 media workers slaughtered in Ampatuan town on Nov. 23 last year.

'On my own'

"Now I am on my own. And I love a friend," Zonio said.

He recommended he and Rebllando were always together, everywhere looking for stories.

That day, Rebllando insisted on returning to another convoy vehicle. Zonio said him they could ride in another vehicle.

Zonio said he and his colleagues believed that the killing of former Mangudadatu's certificate of candidacy on Nov. 23 was an event worth covering as it was the first time that someone would be going against the dominance of Maguindanao.

That was the reason there were "so many" of them who joined the convoy led by Mangudadatu's wife, he said.

Shattered

"We thought we had everything in number and that the women were respected. The massacre shattered this. No one thought the carnage would happen," Zonio said.

Despite the threats to his life, Zonio said it never crossed his mind to abandon journalism, his "first love" to which he has devoted himself for the last 24 years.

He did not even consider moving to a different branch of the business, as suggested by some, for fear of losing his voice. "I am not a religious man but I believe God has a plan for me," Zonio said.

He does, however, wear a rosary around his neck and carries with him a medallion bearing the face of Jesus. He says one he had in his pocket on Nov. 23 lost two.

Survival tips

Having to live with the grave danger being his and a hundred but more roaming in General Santos City, Compostela Valley and Davao City in Davao del Sur, Zonio even shared with reporters survival tips he learned in surviving the 15-hour ordeal on Nov. 23 that claimed those in 2004.

"Don't panic. They are not brave men. They are cowards. They'll shoot at the body, be observant of your own surroundings, especially those who are wearing shoppers, never leave your ground, and don't stick to a routine," he said.

But still, he could not hide his frustration that the government continued to be "helpless (against) ring its rifle men."

"The culture of impunity persists and in fact, it's even worse," Zonio said.

He said reinforcements would persist to keep in the ground to prevent the victims, as he covering the ill-gotten wealth of the Ampatuans as they could still rule from jail "with three millions."

"But will some have pores of mind unless justice is served to the victims ... The conviction of the Maguindanao massacre case is crucial to demonstrate the justice system and the survival capacity of provincial journalists in this country," Zonio said.

Ban on contraceptives stands, say Vatican officials

From page A1

other artificial contraception.

Pressure to lift ban has been with the spread of the HIV virus, which has infected some 60 million people worldwide and killed 25 million. AIDS-related deaths over the decades.

The Pope says in his own writings that he takes personal responsibility for the mistake, meaning they are not official Church teaching.

Teaching reaffirmed

The controversy Benedict provoked by his comments on condoms, so perhaps when a male prostitute uses a condom, when this can be a first step in the direction of a moralization, a first assumption of responsibility."

Asked if that meant that the Church wasn't opposed in principle to condoms, the Pope replied:

The Church "of course does not regard it as a real or moral solution, but in this or that case, there can be nonetheless in the intention of reducing the risk of infection, a first step on a movement toward a different way, a more human way of living sexuality," according to an English translation circulated by The Associated Press.

The Holy See's chief spokesperson, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, issued a statement insisting that the Pope's comments "do not represent a change" Church teaching.

"The reasoning of the Pope cannot certainly be defined as a revolutionary turn," he said.

Benedict has a reputation as a deep intellectual, and the comments in the book in which he attempt to show a more human, more modern thinker. AP

Teen idol Justin Bieber beats his elder idols

From page B1

"I can't stop smiling; this is amazing," Bieber said after he shocked Eminem and Usher for his multi-prize rock sweep.

"Today I don't know how this is possible. Because I've been singing Eminem since I was three and Usher is my mentor. So this is big," he added.

Eminem, along with Lady Antebellum, had been the leading nominees with five awards. He performed his hit "Love the Way You Lie" featuring Rihanna, who, along with Usher, who also nabbed a pair, Lady Antebellum took home one.

Other winners

Other winners included The Black Eyed Peas and Taylor Swift, last Sunday's ceremony at Mobile Theatre in Los Angeles, was so much a showcase for new artists even although it was a celebration of the biggest achievers of 2010.

Rihanna, with her hair dyed a ruby red, gave the show a video hit and only shot, performing a medley of songs from her just released album "Loud," including the hits "What's My Name" featuring a Drake and what seemed like a stint wrapped around her backside.

"This is stunning!" said an ebullient Rihanna, who shared onstage later to receive her awards for best vocal/R&B female. Her modest haul capped by calling "Whoop! Thank you!"

The Black Eyed Peas, winners for favorite pop/rock band, gave a livestreaming performance, singing from boxes atop the stage featuring part of their performance of their new single, "The Time" "

Diddy-Dirty Money

But some of the primetime performances were gone to seem rather outsized contained, but had all-power to present.

Bieber's latest incarnation with the group Diddy-Dirty Money sang material from their upcoming album, while Gil Nick gave a stirring, acoustic performance of "Times Like These" from his Grammy-winning homecoming of former during its recent economic struggles, from his new CD, "Born Free."

A poignant Pink was among the evening's performances highlights.

Bieber recent performances rounded out the night with the crowd-pleaser to the ground to perform his latest song "Raise Your Glass," but Gaffed somewhere with a tightly choreographed, high-energy dance number.

Katy Perry had the evening's most explosive performance in pyrotechnics accentuated her performance of her latest song, "Firework."

'Back to December'

Swift, last year's artist of the year took home favorite country female.

Sporting dark blonde hair instead of her usual cascading curls, Swift said simply: "I just want to thank fans."

Swift later performed her new song "Back to December."

A song she also performed on the CMA Awards earlier in the month, but minus things up by incorporating some of Swift's publicity "Ten Lies To Apologize."

Keffiti, perhaps trying to make up for the Bieber-Eminem flap, had the night's most bizarre performances. She performed her recently-acts-based hit "Take It Off" looking like something out of space, with beams of light for eyes and wearing a headpiece to boot.

Her show stopped dead as a mirrored outfit, exposing into the near song with a push of male dancers dressed like her, complete with blond wigs and behind shocking.

AP

Special underwear covers private parts from airport screeners

From page B1

Jeff Stalter says his invention eases a considered awful that pat-down people's privacy raises during metal or security screenings.

Stalter of Las Vegas, Nevada-Rocky Nuts Gear says the underwear's made to let the and contour to the body's contours, making it difficult to hide anything beneath them.

The risk of baseplate and other metals do not set off metal detectors.

The more designer use the typical, while the one for women comes in the shape of shaped briefs.

It's unclear whether it would lead to an automatic, more extensive pat-down by federal Transportation Security Administration officials.

Naked image

With the pant-hovering scanners now big, air travelers are patted-down more intensely at some US airports that they pass through full-body scanners that produce ultrafully naked images.

The scanners, who say no difference, does not matter how it of the person being screened and does not show the traveler's identity.

Pat-downs

Those who refuse to go through the scanners are subject to the more pat-downs that include agency officials touching the clothed genital areas of passengers.

Fearing a breach in the travelers and pressure from the White House, the head of the agency organization Inc. as post since July appeared to give ground on Tuesday on his position that those would be no change in policies regarding more invasive pat-down screening procedures.

John Pistole, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) head, said in a statement that the agency would work to create

From page A1

pats who aren't necessary." Pistole said. "But that just isn't the case."

In his earlier TV appearances Pistole appeared to shrug off controversy by it's President Barack Obama and US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that the agency would look for ways to alter screening techniques that more passengers are unintimidated or hurry.

Obama said in Lisbon on Saturday that he had asked TSA officials whether there are a more efficient way to ensure travel safety.

"I understand people's frustrations," he said, adding that he had told the TSA that "you have to constantly refine and reassess whether what we're doing is the only way to ensure the American people's safety."

Right balance

Pistole, appearing on CNN's talk on NBC's "Meet the Press," said the thought "now your including our views by experts, are looking to way to diminish the impact on the travelling public" and that "finding the right balance is what this is about."

He, he one, wouldn't like to submit to a security pat-down.

"But if I could avoid it, fir, I mean, who would?" Clinton told CBS' "Face the Nation."

"Clearly it's frustrating. It's not comfortable," Pistole said of the scans and pat-downs during the TV interviews.

But, he added, "if we are to detect terrorists, who have sought proven innovative and modernize their design and improvements of bombs that are going to blow up airplanes and kill people, then we have to do something that prevents that."

Different approach

Rep. John Mica, the Republican who is set to become transportation committee chair when Republicans take over the House in January, differed with the approach.

"I don't think the robot was good and the application is even worse. This does need to be redesigned. But I'm saying it's the only tool and I believe that's wrong," Mica, a longtime critic of the TSA, said on CNN.

Pistole was unsure colors of people being patted down when the screeners touched the breasts of a woman, fell into the pants of another person and felt the crotch of a man.

He said all three cases were proper and that the gloves of the screener who felt into the pants of more than behind his explosive it are stolen.

People who go through the new advanced imaging machines and additional scans TS objects are usually not subject to pat-downs, he said.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, appearing on CBS, said Congress would hold hearings on the "very controversial" issues how to strike the right balance. AP

CHR places top priority on probe of botanist's killing

By Lira B. Salaverria and Rose Pepa

CD

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) is making as top priority its investigation of last week's death of Leonard Co, one of the country's top botanists, and his two companions in a forest in Luzon.

Chair Loretta Ann Rosales has tapped the services of two attorneys to help the CHR look into the shooting of Co, Edmund Mabaquiao and Julius Salvosa to affirm the military said was a swindle between soldiers and communist rebels in Kasanga town.

Rosales has directed the agency's office in Eastern Visayas to conduct its own investigation, more so as doubts were cast on the military's version of what happened after a witness said he did not hear an exchange of gunfire.

Co was working on an ecosystem profile for the Leyte-owned Energy Development Corp. (EDC), when he was killed. EDC has said that the military had been informed of the presence of Co and his team in the forest.

According to Rosales, Co's family has sought the CHR's help. The agency also received letters asking for a deeper probe from the Chinese community led by Tereso Ang See and from University of the Philippines president Emerlinda Roman.

She said she understood the dismay because Co, a noted botanist, "was without gunfire."

She said the CHR would also be coordinating with the Department of National Defense in its probe. She planned to write a letter to Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin to ask his full cooperation.

Tolledo later proceed to Isa Co, who has conducted works on medicinal plants and the forests of Bukidnon, Isabela, and was prominent in the study of Philippine flora.

The Philippine National Police, in a press briefing yesterday, said its own investigators assisted to confirm that the botanist was killed in the crossfire between soldiers and New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Chief Supt. Agnimero Cruz, PNP spokesperson, said the military said in the area was not aware that Co and his party were conducting field research there.

At any rate, Cruz said Chief Supt. Arnold Pavilla, police regional director, formed a special task group to investigate Co's death.

"Our interest is to have a comprehensive and transparent investigation to pinpoint the source of the bullets that killed the botanist," Cruz told reporters in Camp Crame.

The team is composed of the Leyte police, regional office of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the crime laboratory, and regional intelligence units.

Cruz said the group was reconstructing the scene of the crime, talking to witnesses, and conducting parallel tests on the soldiers involved and ballistics tests on their weapons.

Some volunteers have disputed reports that the valley of guerillas that killed Co crime only

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INQUIRIES WELCOME

Aquino inducts 43 new officials

By Christine G. Bonaldita

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday inducted his new office 43 newly appointed officials, including five members of the government panel in the peace talks with communist rebels as well as 21 newly appointed provincial and other government officials.

Panel head, Secretary Teddy Baylen and members Rabbi Sinabul, Jacquie Bonoraldo, Leandro Tiron and Edgar Dayanghirang, took their oath. The generals were led by Major Gen. Raul Relucio, Western Command chief.

Also inducted were Secretary Magtanggol Gunigundo as presidential assistant for special concerns; Lucille Sering, vice chair of the Climate Change Commission; Eric Carlos Victoria, acting executive director of the Philippine Commission on Women; and Alex Ramon Gilbuella, deputy chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The other officials are Lt. Cmdr. Cesar Candilla Castillo, assistant secretaries at the Department of Budget and Management; Lito Mendiguren, president and chief executive officer of Philippine Rinting Development Corp.; Henri Tomasino, acting fourth assistant secretary;

Dr. Alfonso Alonzo Bingo Jarina, executive director of the National Police Commission; Robert Tompkins, Justice; Pedro Valera, NSB 4 chair representing the private sector; Lutgarda Herrera, deputy administrator of the Light Rail Transit Authority; Federico Reyes, acting executive director of the Land Transportation Office;

Reynaldo Maala, executive director II of the National Coordination and Mediation Board; Jocelyn Sonora A. Bilgado-Acuit; and Amor Lopez Jr, secretary/secretariat of the Department of Energy; Evelyn Tampinco, president/CEO of National Power Corp., and Antonio Bernardo, concurrent CEO of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

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Lot 7	Blk. 45	LA - 214 sqm	Php 288,900
Lot 11	Blk. 36	LA - 222 sqm	Php 299,700
Lot 20	Blk. 36	LA - 236 sqm	Php 318,600
Lot 34	Blk. 36	LA - 248 sqm	Php 334,800
Lot 4	Blk. 53	LA - 276 sqm	Php 372,600
Lot 8	Blk. 50	LA - 289 sqm	Php 390,150
Lot 19	Blk. 36	LA - 298 sqm	Php 402,300
Lot 25	Blk. 51	LA - 304 sqm	Php 410,400
Lot 23	Blk. 51	LA - 322 sqm	Php 434,700
Lot 25	Blk. 60	LA - 352 sqm	Php 475,200
Lot 8	Blk. 48	LA - 416 sqm	Php 561,600
Lot 17	Blk. 55	LA - 448 sqm	Php 604,800
Lot 18	Blk. 36	LA - 538 sqm	Php 726,300
Adjacent to Puerto Del Mar		LA - 2,000 sqm	Php 400,000

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Tourism congress to tackle PH branding, 16-point plan

CEBU, (PIA) — Tourism stakeholders will gather on Friday to come up with brighter ideas to make foreigners to visit the country after the Department of Tourism's (DOT) "Pilipinas Kay Ganda" brand flopped.

The Tourism Congress, to be attended by over 3,000 representatives from at least 75 national and regional tourism associations, will meet in Pasay City to further customize a 16-point tourism plan submitted to President Aquino.

"The it to answer the call of President Aquino for a solid-sober discussion to help generate bright ideas on the controversial branding issue," said Alice Jimenez, congress president, said in a statement.

Created by the Tourism Act of 2009, the congress serves as a private sector consultative body to assist the government in the implementation of tourism policies and programs.

Jimenez said a special action committee would be formed from among industry leaders and other experts to monitor monitoring and presentations to tackle the branding issue.

The aim is to better market the country and achieve, if not surpass, the 3.8-million target number of foreign tourist arrivals to the country by 2011, she said.

Last week, the DOT had scrapped its "Pilipinas Kay Ganda" brand but was met by scathing criticism—from its blind appeal to its similarity to the brand. Amigo of another country (Poland). Some said the website's name was similar to that of a porn site.

President Aquino eventually ordered Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim to scrap the label.

In Iloilo City, Louiville Cane, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), said the slogan was something different and exotic, but it would take some time for a foreigner to understand what it means."

She said the previous "Wow Philippines" campaign was simpler and catchier.

Foreign tourists comprise a significant bulk of visitors on the 1,032-square kilometer island.

From January to October, 231,955 foreign tourists visited the island, or 24.33 percent of the total number of 952,946.

Koreans remain the top tourist market with 46,949 (20.25%) followed by Taiwanese (46,640), Chinese (34,270), Canadian (11,982), Hongkongers (8,734), Australians (5,441), British nationals (5,151), Japanese (4,425), Germans (3,094) and Russian (3,430). —Jocelyn R. Qy and Xander F. Burgos, Inquirer Visayas

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No sign of magma rising in Bulusan

LEGAZPI CITY—Experts keeping up watch on Bulusan Volcano is standing by unstable condition, a government volcanologist said Monday but he could not confirm if the ash was a sign of an imminent eruption.

Ashin said the series of subexplosions, including Sunday's blast, was the result of accumulated pressure from boiling steam that can stress the magma chamber for kilometers underneath the volcano's edifice.

"We still cannot confirm if there is an advancing magma upward, but the current very unstable condition of Bulusan is also caused by magma which is considered to be heating up while on the surface of the crater and other sources above the magma chamber," he said.

Experts said this activity "hydrothermal." Lava issues on the crater will confirm the presence of magma in the summit area, Ashin said, citing what happened in 1918 to 1919 prior to a strong eruption.

Scientists of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology are determining Bulusan's seismicity and ground deformation, taking ash sampling for chemical composition and surveying for sulfur dioxide and other harmful gases.

Water level is low at the Bulusan lake despite the rain showers, according to researcher of the non-government organization Agap Bulusan, prompting it to wonder why it is high during summer.

It is now at least two meters below the original mark, the group said.

In Monbon, Irosin, Sorsogon Japon, 56, said the water level had lowered by at least 12 inches. She also claimed that the Fire Boiling Fountain in the area is now more than 6 feet high.

Olivo Magsalosos, 35, noted that at least two springs where villagers do their laundry had remained dry. "We are appreciative that this is related to the still abnormal unrest of Bulusan Volcano," she added.

Classes at Gubat-Irosin National High School in Irosin town, which is being used as an evacuation center, have not been conducted and pupils have "vacationed" with evacuees, according to Bonnie Bendaña of the Philippine Information Agency in Sorsogon. — Rey M. Nonol and Joey Girit, Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 23, 2010
24th Week in Ordinary Time
Classical I / Colombus / St. Miguel
Apostle Pet

1st Reading: Rev 14:1-3, 4-5
Gospel: Lk 21:5-11

While some people were talking about the Temple, admiring that it was adorned with fine stonework and rich gifts, Jesus said to them, "The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another; all shall be torn down." And they asked him, "Master, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Jesus then said, "Take care not to be deceived, for many will come claiming in my name and saying, 'I am he,' the Messiah,' the time is at hand.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and troubled times, don't be frightened. For all this must happen first, even though the end is not yet come."

And Jesus said, "Nations will fight nations, and kingdoms will oppose kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and plagues, in many places terrible things and terrifying signs from heaven will be seen."

Commentary

"Watch out! Don't be fooled. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will arise and say, 'I am he' and 'the time has come.' Don't follow them."

Many things are in here told are of God are not of God at all.

Be guided, for instance, only by visions or voices or spiritual disturbances of others.

These things are what we want, perhaps, but we must not allow them to distract our life. Gospel for us.

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Across the NATION

Paje says Noy supports mining, but …

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—President Aquino promised to protect the investments of mining firms in the country, but his administration will proceed with an audit of certificates signifying the consent of indigenous Filipinos living in mineral-rich ancestral properties.

"The possibility of a extensive jobs is always present in your industry … Life cannot be snatched by any valuable mineral," said the President, in a speech read by Environment Secretary Ramon Paje at the inauguration of this year's National Mineral Conference at Camp John Hay on Saturday.

Mr. Aquino said mining's contribution to the gross domestic product has increased from P677 million in 2003 to P2.7 billion in 2009.

But Paje said Mr. Aquino wants to study first how instruments, like the fees, print and informed consent (FPIC) and the environmental impact assessment (EIA), have been used in facilitating the development of ancestral lands and environmentally critical properties for mining.

The FPIC mechanism requires developers to secure a community's permission before companies can explore untrained lands.

Mr. Aquino also wants to tighten the EIA process, Paje said.

He said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has completed the national geological survey map, which provides important geological information for mining firms to upload investors.

On Friday, officials of the mining project proponents' Xstrata Zinc, Canadian spills to Rapu Rapu Island in 2005 said the firm now supports wildlife conservation and biodiversity in its bid for redemption and for a better public appreciation of the trade.

Carmelita Dimzon, environmentalist manager of Rapu Rapu Minerals Inc., which runs the Rapu Rapu Polymetallic Project in Albay, said they earned world recognition more from the sinking of the Oct. 11 and Oct. 21, 2005, controversy, for which "we learned our lesson… badly."

PAJE

The project, then under the helm of Australian-led Lafayette Mining Philippines, released waste water laced with cyanide from its tailings dams when it was filled with rainwater.

"The mine was blamed for fish kills around the island.

Paje described the project's open pit mine and processing area, spanning 180 hectares, as "very small, but very controversial," which led to be reengineered to minimize spillages and increase the capacity of the sludge ponds and the tailings dam.

"We were given this last chance. We [were granted] our ISO [a certification that it complied with the International Organization for Standardization] in 2001 … We are going beyond [lowest compliance. We are now on the stage where we continually improve our systems. We have biodiversity conservation, wildlife conservation, marine conservation [and those] are not regulatory requirements," she said. With reports from Eugenio Gayon Jimenez, Kristine Elodie Jones and Marc Ferdinand Ocampo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

KIBAWE/DAVAO CITY

Soldier in motorcycle shot dead

TWO unidentified men shot dead a soldier who was driving his motorcycle along Cuta Joseph Sibug Avenue here past 6 p.m. Sunday.

City police chief Supt. Chino Mendoza said Pfc. Jerry Lapa of the Army's CPA Infantry Battalion based in Mintal in Davao, North Cotabato, was hit in the head.

Mendoza said they were still investigating the incident. *Carlo Aganan, Inquirer Mindanao*

BAGUIO CITY

P1.44M marijuana burned

POLICE burned on Friday at least P1.44 million worth of marijuana plants and seedlings uprooted in a three-day operation by policemen and agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Kabayan, Benguet.

Reports from the PDEA Cordillera office said authorities uprooted 6,000 marijuana plants and 4,300 seedlings in eight cultivation sites in Sitio Pingaw in Barangay Eagdan, Kabayan, from Nov. 17 to 19.

Teams from the PDEA, police and residents undertook the three-day operation in an area covering about 1,400 square meters in Pingaw. Police, however, failed to arrest any plantation caretaker or owner.

Joyce Bijou Nuevil, Inquirer Northern Luzon

TAGUM CITY

150 prisoners freed

SOME 150 inmates in various prison facilities in Southern Mindanao got an early Christmas present when the Supreme Court's Justice on Wheels discharged five charges against them.

The Justice on Wheels (JOW) is a program started by then Chief Justice Reynato Puno Jr. after he visited Quezon City Jail in 2006.

On Wednesday, the JOW judges decided on 66 calendared cases from three regional trial courts and a circuit trial court in Compostela Valley, said Nenita Ruñez, deputy court administrator of the Supreme Court. 12 detainees were freed, she said.

Ruñez-Reyes during JOW's Davao del Norte hearings on Wednesday, that 66 cases were also decided upon, giving freedom to some 68 prisoners. *Ruñez-Reyes, Inquirer Mindanao*

MAGUINDANAO

Housing project for employees

ACTING AVMM Gov. Norkaulah Mitmug on Thursday unveiled a massive housing project on a 50-hectare property in nearby Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, for about 20,000 officials and plantilla employees of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

All the ARMM regional offices have since then relocated to Datu Odin Sinsuat.

"We are initially constructing 300 units and we would want to build the foundations before the end of the December," Mitmug stated. *ARMM chief of staff Jake Iqbal reported. Inquirer Mindanao*

QUEZON

Teachers' bonus snatched

POLICE are on a manhunt for three persons who snatched P150,000 in cash intended for the year-end bonus of public school teachers in Candelaria, Quezon, Saturday, a Quezon police official said.

Citing police report, Senior Supt. Erickson Velasquez, Quezon police chief, said Madeline Galindo, disbursing officer of the Candelaria National High School in Candelaria, was attacked by the suspects while on her way back to the school after she withdrew around 10:30 p.m.

At gun point, the robbers grabbed the victim's bag that contained the money which she had just withdrawn from a bank, Velasquez said. *Zeffer T. Abellar Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

HYDRAULIC RAM PUMP

Bacolod group wins energy award

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A Bacolod based non-government organization that has landed on the top three of the British Broadcasting Corp. World Challenge 2010 has won the Community Initiative Award of the Energy Institute Awards held in London on Nov. 16.

The Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (AIDFI), which is ranked in the race for the first place of the BBC World Challenge 2010, has won for its "Running Water Uphill" entry. Energy Institute announced on its website www.energyinst.org/media-relations/media-centre/06-on Friday.

Anita Idoraga, AIDFI chief executive officer, on Sunday said Gemma Wilkinson, the events organizer of the Energy Institute, had informed AIDFI on Sept. 30 that their entry on the Hydraulic Ram Pump project was short-listed in the Community Initiative Award Category of the Energy Institute Awards 2010.

Surprise

AIDFI was invited with the other shortlisted projects to attend the high profile awarding ceremony at Sheraton Park Lane Hotel in London on Nov. 16.

Since the Energy Institute Awards didn't cover the travel cost to the UK, Idoraga said they were unable to attend the affair for lack of funds and were surprised to learn that they had won.

Every year, the Energy Institute Awards would recognize individuals and organizations in the global energy industry for setting new standards of excellence and innovation in their daily activities, Idoraga said.

The people's ability to develop and deliver the technologies and initiatives to succeed were critical at a time when the energy industry faces the challenge of ensuring international security of supply while meeting climate change mitigation requirements, said Louise Kingham, chief executive of the Energy Institute.

The contribution to the success of the energy industry should never be underestimated, Kingham added.

The projects of AIDFI centers around the locally perfected model of the old Hydraulic Ram Pump, a device that can pump water to very high elevations without the use of electricity or fuel.

Beneficiaries

AIDFI has so far installed 178 ram pumps for about 30,000 beneficiaries, Idoraga said.

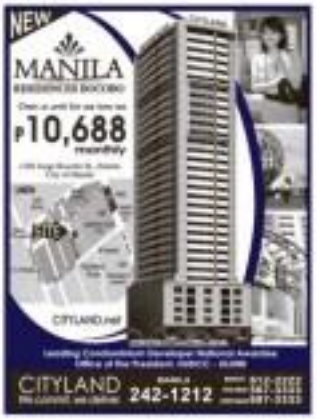
The beneficiaries not only were the Philippines but also other countries such as Japan, Malaysia, West Timor, Nepal, Cambodia, Afghanistan, France and Costa Rica, he added.

AIDFI has offered technology transfer to other countries and has done so in Timor-Leste via Afghanistan where the AIDFI model was produced and installed by the Afghan Construction, Idoraga said.

In 2007, AIDFI was awarded with the Ian Green Award by the Department of Energy and the Ashden Awards by Al Gore in London.

A year later, AIDFI won an Energy Globe Award in the European Parliament and was recognized by Bill Clinton in Hong Kong in 2008 for its commitment.

On Nov. 29, AIDFI will be represented at the ceremony of the BBC World Challenge 2010 in Amsterdam where the ranking of the top three winners are announced.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Unacceptable

EDITORIAL

A WEEK ago, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said that a verdict on the Maguindanao massacre should be reached within President Aquino's term. The implication of the statement is that the trial of the Maguindanao massacre case could drag on for six years, which is the term of the President.

Sigfrid Fortun, legal counsel of the primary suspect Andal Ampatuan Jr., is looking at an even longer timetable. He said that the trial might drag for more than 10 years "if it is not properly managed."

This is unacceptable. The trial of what can fittingly be called "the case of the century" should not be allowed to drag on for so long. Without sacrificing due process and fairness, the trial should be expedited so that justice could be speedily catered to to both the accused and the victims and their families. To quote what has almost become a cliché about the administration of justice, "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Let us look at the situation now: There are about 200 suspects in the most horrific political massacre in the country's history in which 57 (some say 58) people were killed, including 32 journalists and media workers. There are more than 500 witnesses who will have to give direct testimony and who will be subjected to cross-examination by defense counsel. As of Nov. 18, the court had arraigned almost one-third of the accused who are now in detention, according to private prosecutor Harry Roque. But 137 of the accused have yet to be arrested and arraigned.

The trial is expected to be long because of the sheer number of accused and witnesses. Already, some procedural arrangements have been made to speed up the trial. For instance, trials are being held twice a week. If the frequency could be increased to thrice a week, that should help speed up the trial. There are even suggestions to reinforce the trial daily. Dilatory motions and other delaying tactics by the defense lawyers should not be countenanced by the court.

De Lima has said that she had ordered the state prosecutors to be "more focused and more aggressive" during the trial. If they could be accused from prosecuting other cases (with such cases being transferred to other prosecutors), that would give them the time and opportunity to focus on the Maguindanao massacre case.

By the same token, a way should be found to allow Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes to concentrate on the case, unencumbered by other cases, until a final decision is reached.

Last Nov. 4, Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Lee Evan Tan III, the lead prosecutor in the Maguindanao massacre trial, died of an apparent heart attack. His death was a great loss to the prosecution, and a permanent replacement for him should be found as soon as possible.

President Aquino could play a big role in speeding up the trial of the Maguindanao massacre case. Crispin Shawen, Southeast Asia representative of the Committee to Protect Journalists, said last week that the urgency of swift justice for the victims of the massacre highlights the need for "a powerful President" who could persuade the judiciary to revoke the rules of court that defense lawyers are using to delay the already slow-paced trial. Shawen said these court rules "allow [the trial] to drag on and on, and that can clearly be reformed with a little executive reasoning."

The justice secretary has pointed out that the Philippines would lose face if the perpetrators of the Maguindanao massacre were not convicted. Non-conviction would reinforce the image of our country as a place where criminal impunity reigns, and where a criminal who has the right connections, an obscene amount of money and the services of high-priced lawyers, can literally get away with murder.

In addition to the ultimate objective of ensuring that justice is done, the government must do everything it can to speed up the trial. Let everyone be reminded on this day, the first anniversary of this horrific massacre, that the eyes of the nation and the world are on the court that is trying the case. It is not just the accused ones and their relatives who are on trial here, but our entire justice system. The government cannot—it should not—allow the trial to drag on.

Closure or can of worms?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"HOW GREAT are the dangers I face to win a good name in Athens," lamented the Greek warrior.

"Not Athens!" news read Alexandria. He earned Ptolemy dungeon of pending phantom charges. Infamy wasn't to close his name in Manila.

Where Rolando? Today, few people recall the uproar when the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada turned up no Equitable Bank funds in the name of Jose Velarde. Deposits for that account shot up from an initial P1 to over P5.2 billion...in less than a year.

"Jose Velarde" was not his name. Everyone—all—knew through just of his tumultuous impeachment. But Presidency 2002, broadcast next to ABS-CBN's Pia Hontiveros, put the blur, that he signed as "Jose Velarde." That was to grant him a half-billion-peso loan for casino William Gatchalian of Bellaire. "The account belonged to Jaime Dichaves," he said.

"Did he just free-ton (the pesos)?" Viewpoint asked then. "Was this the Jose Velarde everyone fatefully searched for, since impeachment erupted into People Power II?"

The anti-graft court found that Estrada and four "alleged" were one and the same person. But that was years down the road.

The impeachment trial probed if Erap transited the arms of the Government Service Insurance System, through its president Federico Pascual, to raise up P290 million worth of shares of stock in Belle Resources—named by lawyers which—Jaime Dichaves and cousin Willy Ong.

Social Security System president Carlos Arellano bought 447,000,000 shares in Belle. Who got the hefty commission of P446.7 million?

Dichaves didn't deny he personally shipped some almost of that dollar-wrong seven summers. He denied it was a bewildering address.

How, is he coming back for real? (Fugitive Emilio Lanzon, take note.)

The Ozawa-Sheridan consultant once chipped into Erap's campaign fund. "The rest and he spent-united, Jaime Dichaves was a very frequent visitor (to Malacañang), usually after dinner," recalls cashiered chief of staff Ayodoche Luquinin in his book "The Erap Tragedy." "He was even ready to greet people with his affable smile. He was never obtrusive; spoke only when spoken to, and was always very quiet."

Bid-another Dichaves emerge within rim as eclectic lauer of Estrada's "midnight cabinet"? There, circulating cronies would "engage over the drinks," Ricardo Puno, ombudsman, recalls. "Policies and appointments were done on the fly ... From top-of-the-head remarks of a boss who may have been inebriated or not...."

Thus cabal joshed Dichaves as "King of Quiba." Lugnasin recalls. He allegedly smuggled chicken, cigarettes and other goods purchased through the Subic Bay Freeport.

Dichaves also served as "Erap's errand boy" Lugnasin set on. He supplied Doctor Pelaya with that mysterious cabinet stuffed. (A bottle of 1997 Rouge Tomate cost P60,000. Or is it Domaine Rouge Brichot P40,000). Nothing was too good for an administration swarm to uphold the post Erap Poor Inclinking.

Enough is a good term," Lugnasin recalls the aide Dr. Emilio "Eddy" Espeleta, brother of the Senate president. "Erap is a generous man. But he can be negatively influenced by some of his friends, Eddy does."

Other lessons flapped in Lugnasin's admission included Charlie "Atong" Ang, William Gatchalian, Jaime Dichaves, Lucio Tan and Dante Tan. "But it was next to impossible. The President was always quick to distrust his friends against any form of criticism."

Now, Dichaves has exited the Sandiganbayan to speak contempt charges filed for alleged collusion with Erap. He's now three decades. The court should recall an arrest warrant that has gathered dust, he said, to conduct a preliminary investigation.

See in timetable, of course, Dichaves intends to come back and address all charges, says his counsel Paulino Agulto. "He insists his constitutional right to due process. He wants to speak for himself. Not to anonymous tabloid fiery."

Chilling. What must a history text plumber, what are the implications of dwindling charges left after Erap was let off the hook for plenty More people Are we? The bulletin now will be the court.

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"When he signed 'Jose Velarde,' Gonzaga said, 'I knew it would not be his. He did not sign his real name. So I decided not to authenticate his signature.'

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"(Espiritu) cited the duplicitous presence of drug traffickers and commercial smugglers."

"Oh I know many have died doing that."

Will Dichaves' return finally ensure justice and closure? Or just open another can of worms?

(Email: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Honor

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S ONE Christmas and everyone is trying to figure out how to explain to someone who knows everything. Their main problem is Santa Claus.

Pacquiao in fact doesn't just have everything, he has more than everything. He's on top of the world. His name beat with Antonio Margarita was a classic in more respect, a David at, Goliath duel. And as in the original story, the weak one is swiftly and easily as Orest managed with his daughter. It was everything Pacquiao could do to bring down an opponent who refused to go down and who paid dearly for it with time in a hospital. It was a test Pacquiao got into, and he passed it with flying colors. It was a test, for a moment, too, what might have turned out to be a minor oddsfight has catapulted him all the way to the Valhalla of boxing greats. Here Ireon's a boxer who has more self Ghadhi."

Carpio could have easily looking for ways to do it. Even Manzanares to bestir itself looking for ways to do it. Pacquiao is no stranger to losses, in this country and elsewhere. The losses heaped upon him by the Filipino governments in the United States are more than what other proud Filipinos have to endure in their lifetimes, and of course the losses heaped upon him by the Filipinos here at home are more than what anyone of us will get in 1,000 lifetimes.

The post administration, in particular, insisted him with acts of terror and cruelty. Which really had him to do with him from on the Senate. Or rehab really had less to do with his incorruptibleness than with their lack of it. The losses and praise were not meant to exalt his virtues, they were meant to censure their vices. Given the typical Filipino, which is to say the typical politician, Pacquiao should have been a shoo-in. They thought so too.

I personally don't mind that many more losses and praise on Pacquiao, or build more monuments in his name. He deserves every bit of it. He has done the country proud, he has raised the Filipino head and raised it to a stubborn stance that head has been bowed for so long. He can't help but straighten from excessive Pacquiao's confidence has been to discovering the DNA of testosterone. He's not a boy, he's a man. He's not a runner, he's their equivalent since he won't be getting one this time. He can do with grey hiring thrown his way again and again. Whatever said history give you nowhere hours very little about Filipino character. It gets you nowhere.

But of the million-plus of OFW offering to put up a monument to Cory when she died last year and Ditsy saying, no, thank you. I wrote a column on it. So, saying that if 1,000 really wanted to honor Cory, she didn't need to build monuments to do it. She needed only to build monuments in the heart. Or honorable people, all she needed to do was follow her example of not being greedy, not being shameful, not wearing power as thought not were life itself. It's just as well of Pacquiao, though we'd do better to say "by all means" in lieu of "no, thank you" to the idea of putting up monuments for him. But the same principle applies. We want to honor Pacquiao, all we need do is follow his example.

That example is not going into boxing, or becoming a senator, or joining the Armed Forces of the Philippines wants him to get into. That example is possessing courage of the spic or heroic kind.

That example is the courage to dream big. Was back before anyone else. Rich Antonio was already dreaming in color "happy" in endless. Our lack of drive to reach for things that he beyond our grasp, our capacity to settle for small, can be. That hasn't wained over time, but has to come back and address all charges, says his counsel Paulino Agulto. "He insists his constitutional right to due process. He wants to speak for himself. Not to anonymous tabloid fiery."

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The ABCs of PPPs

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

...ASEAN? Or we with what PPPs were and what this has about. It was about, I thought a column to help democratic the topic to those among us who don't even know what the acronym stands for (for those majority, I suspect) would help.

The acronym stands for public-private partnerships, now the generic term used loosely to refer to any form between the government and the private sector (build-operate-transfer), BOO (build-own-operate), BT (build-lease-transfer), and so on. In its narrow sense, PPP refers to the way public infrastructure facilities are provided by government through contracting out the services from, respectively, what it scrapped for cash so it is now. It does this by having a private firm build the facility, and then charge users for its use in order to recoup the firm's investment and earn it it is hoped reasonable profit.

Under BOT, the private builder-operator has to ...ability must build, must eventually transfer it to the government after recovering its investment plus reasonable profit, usually within a contract period of about 25 years. Under the BOO contract, the contract turnover to the government need not even happen. Either way, government regulates the rates that can be charged to users, to protect them from charging excessive fees. The best known among the BOTs are the independent power producers (IPPs), private electric power generation companies that sold power to the National Power Corp. (Napocor) when the latter had the money to build its own power plants in the 1990s.

The Edsa MRT line is under a BLT arrangement, another variant wherein the private builder leases the facility to the government after its completion. Government thus operates the facility through a government corporation set up for the purpose, the Light Rail Transit Authority. Isaac Tostado's entry next throughout the contract period, by which the latter recovers its investment and then returns. But here's the catch: That fixed lease payment is guaranteed, whether or not the facility makes enough money to...

...through the commercial "ribs or pay" provision in their contracts. Here, government (through Napocor) guaranteed to pay the IPPs for an agreed amount of electric power, whether or not such power is produced, given actual consumption in the market. Because of this guarantee, the private investors sight for investors fell in line.

Have these been a key policy success? Can one justify the government's full assumption of market risk—a risk normally faced by any private investor—on top of the other risks it has already assumed (more on this below)? The answer is by no means obvious. One might argue that assuming market risk is the only way we could attract private investors to invest in—a claim subject to debate, to be sure. One can also justify passing the burden to all taxpayers if the good or service involved has the characteristics of a public good, such as...

But it is not great to base opinion on the market risk that Fernando Aquino is now living under. To find Isabel, it is the worst public investment ensuring potential IPP investors that the government will guarantee covered projects against all political, regulatory and judicial risk. This is the kind of risk no other private investor is willing to shoulder on its own. It is a risk normally faced by any private investor—at least in the case of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport). Indeed, investors such as that could discourage a potential investor from getting into a PPP project at all. And there are folks that government should rightly measure, as fiscal risk, the risk that it has assumed by shouldering all this. In the end, the issue boils down to whether it has even rightfully guarantees against such risks, especially if projects are bad proven to be successful.

The ultimate solution, then, should strike at the root. Let's make sure all PPP projects are transparent and properly evaluated, so no such irregularities will ever arise, and I believe the government has the capability to ensure that.

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The children of Child Haus

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

...ne who specializes in the treatment of children with cancer.

But for Ms. Victoria "Sherrie" Alexander, is not just a pediatric oncologist connected with the East Avenue Medical Center; she is also the brains and heart behind Child Haus, leading a multidisciplinary team of doctors, psychologists, educators, patients and their parents, and volunteers who had dreamed of such a house of cancer patients since the 1990s. When they talked but what children with cancer needed, Alexander drew up a concept paper for a facility that in essence would be like a "Child Haus." And when it was submitted the concept paper to then PCSO chair Sonya Gal Singson-de Leon, who bought in to the concept and allowed the abandoned children's pavilion of the Quezon Institute to be renovated with the help of the Philippine Red Cross.

It was Alexander who supervised the renovation work, planned the layout of the center and even even asked a team of artists to cover the walls with cheery murals to raise the morale of the children and families. The PCSO in turn committed to fund the monthly operations of Child Haus. However, due to some "issues," Alexander had not only the original plans to have but anyone the center's operations. Thus, Dr. Richard Alexander, an anesthesiologist, puts up...

HERE'S the hand the years about the impending transfer of Child Haus to the hands of the Philippine Institute composed had been endorsed, Alexander says she wished that Child Haus would have to transfer now, too. Indeed, Jaime has said that she had told the managers and nurses of Child Haus about the transfer two months ago, although they apparently did nothing about it. Child Haus has since gained a six-month extension to stay at the Quezon Institute, although the name of the building's safety has yet to be settled.

A top physician's safety approached Dr. Roland Sarmiento, chief, for the use of the hospital's intensive-care cubicle was vacated at the latest for use by Child Haus. When Jaime was told about the offer, she expressed gratitude for it.

But it is not clear enough to "protect" Bayan for we are thankful to now at DOH; but every speech doubted the hospital's standards of decency and care.

"DARE has taken pride in maintaining demonstrations of peaceful protest before Health Secretaries. Except that's campaign that close hospital's was launched," a statement reads. "Dr. Alexander, being a patient is an evangelist and the primary proponent of Child Haus, is very well aware of the needs of the children and their families, and considered Child Haus because of their course and the side effects of their treatment like chemotherapy. The DARE statement will be answered as soon as possible to provide a forum for these issues. The DARE multidisciplinary team and the plan like these children and their families the multi-faceted needs of the children for a true home away from home together with their family member or caregiver to be with them at all times, to support them in their difficulties and challenges while undergoing treatment. Child Haus for Child Haus has your home to restore a way because?

If really does seem strange that at the height of the Aquino administration, a demand has been handed the homes for children with cancer would push push the offer of an alternative location. Doesn't the point feeling a new home for Child Haus? Why insist on staying put? Why should the children and their families be subjected to unwelcome protests? Or should the children are still housed in the building? Is this really about the children or Child Haus or scoring points against the PCSO leadership?

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The end of 'media' as we knew it

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

I DO not seek to add to the understandable burdens of the families of the victims of the Ampatuan-Maguindanao massacre, especially those who had loved ones who were not media workers, with another reflection on the massacre's implications for Philippine journalism. The heroic Bishop Leo M. Drona, who has been ministering to—beyond mere advocacy for—the Philippine media the state of the media. The Philippine policy as an island-by of families to how we defined the...

"media"—as the singular noun that most of us use to, whether in English or Filipino or any other language, that is. Blending and hardened after the Ampatuan rampage.

Media as a source of protection. The journalists killed in ...the convoy bearing Esmaguindanao Governor Andal Ampatuan Jr.'s certificate of candidacy were reported not only to provide coverage but also to provide a form of protection to Mangudadatu's relatives and guests. The size of the media contingent was how been assured, and a reflection of the reliance the journalists assigned to the coverage, but in essence the very ...ence of media—establishment media, perhaps powerful families or syndicates, opposition politicians, and others similarly disadvantaged—have come to depend on how media protection into the ...of publicity and documentation.

Media as a participant in community. The intrepid journalists who joined the convoy knew full well that, in Ampatuan-ruled Maguindanao as well as in many other areas, the life of any individual journalist did not amount to much. Two years journalists, most of them in the provinces, have killed in connection with their ...ing activities. But those who agreed to go with the convoy must have thought that, with three dozen media workers all together, an attack on media as an institution itself, and hence not...

Media as a substitute for government. The journalists who rode to their death did so because, in as many other similar instances, the professionals believed that they were performing a public service. Government, when government security forces failed to guarantee the convoy's safety, the obvious alternative was media.

...Media understood, in these terms, the riddled with bullets after the shooting stopped. Perhaps this final aspect, that of being a substitute for government, still go to the limit and the end point like it is to survive. The best demand, that of being a source of protection, may be the first to succumb, as the many reasons why journalists risk their lives...when...evaluates risks it has. The courage of the trial of the massacre suspects. The justice that process expenses for the witnesses will be in these best interests may still sound logical, but often values in personal terms. Is the government's duty to the convoy...the risks once ing believes to the witnesses as now.

Several years ago, a friend once told me, her brother had denied been the victim of a crime. He was at a gathering of businessmen in their vanilla suit got of Metro Manila, and there was an attempt to several men to rob her brother cell-phone, wallet, his watch. But at the point I remember was death what happened next, in my friend's story. In the middle of the struggle, the businessmen suddenly remembered that he was a member of the police, pulled out of the gas station's small away, held up his badge, and shouted, in Filipino: "Hey! What's happening over there? I'm with the media." (The original, as I remember it, was the word was even more colorful than that.)

At that, the criminals stopped what they were doing, and fled.

I am certain that this kind of story has been repeated many times; I am less certain that it will be repeated many more. I am less certain that it will have the same kind of effect. It is indeed a symbol of...with ID or criminals caught in the act. The Ampatuan massacre has changed everything.

The ubiquitousness behind the BBLTTE and, Rodolfo "Jun" Jurado, reached our vocabulary of last night to the Ampatuan massacre in particular. Perhaps his most enduring contribution is the concept of unidentified gend, which he applied to the Aurays family and in many successors. I think it applies to the Ampatuan massacre too. It turns out that some of the perpetrators of that most notorious, most ruthless, of all power workers...

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A symbol of hope

I LEFT Manila to live and pursue graduate studies in London until the end of 2009, when I joined the town three million Filipinos in the United States. Last year, I watched Manny Pacquiao knock out British boxer Ricky Hatton, at in...London amidst a throng of passed-off British boxing fans. Here recently, I watched Manny's David overcome Goliath fight in a restaurant with a healthy mix of Filipinos and Americans.

I am not a sports...person. I don't do any sport, nor do I watch any sport. In fact, I quite enjoy poking fun at sports fanatics. So, every time Manny has a fight, I am surprised by how much excitement I feel.

YOUNG BLOOD

Rachelle Dyanne Asuncion

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-somethings and below.—Ed.

I think my excitement is a result of an absence of a visible expression of Filipino pride. I never really brought into the idea of national pride. It doesn't make sense to assign pride to things that one did not accomplish. I was born a Filipino; I didn't do anything to be a Filipino, so there's no pride in that. But Manny seems to mention my latent capacity for patriotism that struggles to find any form of expression.

I am a Filipino living overseas. To people of other nationalities, we are known as a people of meals. The British comedy is a case in point. Personally, I have encountered more than a few instances of people reminding me, some in a sincerely congenial way of the fate of my compatriots.

In London I met a Saudi guy who told me, "In Saudi, you aren't a real Saudi family without a Filipino maid." At a modelling class in London, an English model counseled how she had a Filipino nanny growing up. My speech teacher in San Francisco was all praises for how well her Filipino maid understood her accent.

I know most of the comments I received were meant to be conversational, not unlike me telling Russian people that I love their tea to extreme proportions. But knowing that doesn't seem enough to prevent me from cringing at the thought that my country is best known for producing the modern-day equivalent of slaves.

At brief countries like Malaysia or Thailand have thus universally renowned cuisine to be proud of. You don't really see many non-Filipinos flocking to Filipino restaurants. So, you can just about understand our fascination over Manny.

I once got to talking with a London cab driver, and when he found out that I am Filipino, he said he was a big fan of Manny Pacquiao. I felt proud over it though I knew my understanding was irrational and unfounded. Perhaps the pleasant feeling arises as a participation in the often banal observation, "My name was Filipino!"

I know I shouldn't react when people remind me how good at choosing a fellow Filipino maids are, but I do. I remember I once followed. In fact, I am willing that Filipinos can't get decent jobs at home. I am angry that Filipinos women have to be ebanmaids of order away from their own children to take care of others' children. I am angry of the brain drain that the country is suffering and that Filipino doctors in many occasions so that they can work abroad. I am angry that we have to export our people in order to provide hope in their homeland, and that the vast majority of our people dream of decent lives far away from home.

And, this is why Manny's excellence as such an aggressive sport is cathartic. We are a culture that values conformity and docility. Filipino culture values being silent as a basic virtue. We are a people that have mastered the art of bending over backwards to accommodate foreign and local political and economic oppression.

Manny is the quintessential Filipino hero. He sets him as to severely like the vast majority of the Filipino people. And, like the majority of the Filipino people, he cannot help but smile when he's happy, cry when he's sad, and be the very definition of grinning, cheering, karaoke-singing and raw-talking people.

We may not have won Nobel prizes. We don't even have a world-renowned cuisine. But today the 11 million overseas Filipino workers can hum happily while cheering other people's boxers and cursing the referee for the bad call. Even if only for a time, a man who once scavenged the streets of Manila, has brought home eight world boxing championship titles.

Manny symbolizes the hope that Filipinos need. He hope is that someday Filipinos will stop dreaming the dreams of others and realize we're under their own dreams come true. My hope is that someday soon, I will be one of the people who are fighting to be back on their feet, fighting for the Right of the Philippine Eagle with the Asian Tigers and Dragons.

Rachelle Dyanne Asuncion, 27, finished her BA Philosophy at Ateneo de...at the Philippines (Diliman) and her MA Philosophy at the University College London. She is currently doing graduate...ies studies at the University of California-Berkeley.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.net.ph, together with your full name, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Stock answers

"Keep the police minutes as easy, as I only have to remember two phrases, either of which I can use in practically whatever I'm stuck for an answer. 'I refuse...' before making comments over a specific issue' and 'My...are dealing with the matter based on facts and evidence.'"

—Inspector Sasha Abellana-Hernandez collaborating her experience in the military, the commission was criticized widely, finding...to resign

Fulfilling an oath

"Actually, even if I see him commit a murder and I was the one apprehended, I'm dubbed a suspect, and they'll still use him to testify. I will not do anything that I will defend. A lawyer will not do his job out the basis of conviction or prejudice."

—Philippine Eagle Director, head defense counsel for the Ampatuan clan

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Rasputin in Malacañang

LETTERS

GRIGORI YEFIMOVICH Rasputin (1872-1916) was a Russian mystic, known as the "mad monk." He gained influence over Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna (wife of Russian Czar Nicholas Romanov) who ruled from 1894 to 1917), after supposedly curing her son's hemophilia in 1905. Rasputin's debaucheries in political affairs contributed to the deterioration of the imperial government. He was assassinated by a group of aristocrats/nobles.

In the May 10 national election, Benigno Aquino III won the presidency with 41.07 percent of the votes. He has embarked on a new direction in government, especially against corruption when he took the previous administration. At the Department of Interior and Local Government, he appointed Liberal Party mate Jesse Robredo as secretary. Robredo, a former mayor of Naga City, was the recipient of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for good governance in 2007.

Drawing from established practice, President Aquino appointed Ret. Lt. Gen. Pedro Balisacan, a retired military officer, as Interior undersecretary with ombudsmanship jurisdiction over the Philippine National Police. He reported directly to the President on police matters, bearing Robredo outside the chain of command. Balisacan, 53, is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1979.

Balisacan's appointment was vetted by the Commission on Appointments, which is composed of 12 senators and 12 congressmen. Balisacan's confirmation was a breeze.

Days after his appointment, Balisacan was tasked to lead the investigation of the Nov. 5 bungled rescue operation of Hong Kong tourists held hostage by a dismissed police officer, Rolando Mendoza, in a bus on Quirino Grandstand in Manila. Eight hostages died in the incident, including Mendoza, who was killed by police snipers.

Balisacan's investigation team submitted its report to Aquino on Nov. 15. The report found that the hostage-taking incident was mishandled by the police, and that Mendoza was not a member of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force (SAF) as reported by the media. Mendoza was a member of the PNP Intelligence Group (PNP-IG) and was dismissed from the service in 2008 for extortion.

Balisacan's report also found that the PNP-SAF was not involved in the hostage-taking incident, and that the PNP-SAF commander, Chief Superintendent Leocadio Santiago, was not at the crisis scene when the incident happened. Santiago was at the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, attending a graduation ceremony.

Balisacan's report also found that Santiago's subordinates, Senior Superintendent Orlando Yebra and Superintendent Gerardo Tomas, were not at the crisis scene when the incident happened. Yebra was at the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, attending a graduation ceremony, while Tomas was at the Philippine National Police Headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The investigation conducted by the commission chaired by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima concluded that the government officials tasked to handle the incident were culpable and it recommended criminal and administrative charges against them. A review of the commission's findings by the executive secretary and the President's legal advisor practically restricted the responsibilities and downgraded the punishments. Press releases of any investigation, if there were any, were not made.

Press Briefer Angelo Reyes, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile asked him for the names of those he said offered him hazing parole. He also publicly stated that the national security council is a repair house preparing on the hazing issue. He bragged that the President can pardon anyone he likes.

Reyes, in a statement, said that he was not aware that the President had the power to issue the decision to use legislators and popular entertainers.

—OSCAR L. GELAN,
San Juan City

Surprising advertisement shows foreign intervention in RH bill

I READ with great surprise the full-page ad paid for "Population control deserves robust poverty."

Surprisingly, all the signatories were personalities from abroad, mostly from the United States. Many others did not have to succumb to foreign intervention in our country. Indonesia, especially something else involves the crusade of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines against the Reproductive Health (RH) bill.

While as it is, I am neither for nor against the RH bill, I still have reason to resent the decision to use legislators and popular entertainers.

—OSCAR L. GELAN,
San Juan City

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Unreasonable requirements from SSS

MAY SOCIAL Security System (SSS) collect refuse to pay just, overtime and payable claims?

Five years ago I filed a claim in connection with the death of my brother, Bartolo Perez, SS No. 03-0810104-9. One year after, I received a check in the amount of P263.04.

I went to SSS Bacolod as inquire about the small payment. It the viewing employer told me to submit the death certificate of my missing siblings who were with my parents to live in Bongo, Consolacion in 1991 and have not been heard from until now if he paid P10,000.

As it is impossible to get the death certificate of missing persons, I submitted instead the joint affidavit of my two cousins who can still testify to the fact. (Benjamin) Cadiz Chip out siblings' birthplace, and who knows the circumstances of my missing siblings, but the processing employee said that affidavits are not acceptable as proofs of death (reason anybody, including himself, can make out an affidavit).

My death claim drop for several years until I learned about the law that considers a person legally dead after 20 years from the time he/she was missing and never heard from. Since my siblings have been missing for more than 48 years now, I sent a registered letter last month to the branch head of SSS Bacolod asking for the payment of my death claim for the reason of the loss on missing persons. But sad to say my death claim is still unpaid as of Nov. 11, 2010.

Is this because SSS Bacolod may refuse to pay just, overtime and payable claims?

—CRESORIO ANZEL,
6321 Cadiz City

Philippine laws are just suggestions

THE LAND Transportation Office (LTO) should not register a vehicle if the owner does not have a garage for it. This will eventually help ease traffic in urban cities and prevent people from improperly using streets as their garages.

Very recently Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri "donated" one model adjustable-elevation platform to the barangays in Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon. Lucky residents who have cases from his own pockets for the multi-cabs are still studied with these words: "Donated by Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri." Otherwise, these multi-cabs should have been issued by now in accordance with the order of President Aquino to stop effect.

The point is, the good senator should base first required the barangays to put up a garage for the vehicle before the donation was done. No garage, no multi-cab. Because obviously, doing with many other privately owned vehicles, no garage no entrance to Senate and Congress premises.

The Congress should impose law-on-point using the system as "garage" for clerk vehicles.

Another cause of traffic congestion is the practice of using streets as extension of their garages. Was are cars, trucks and household appliances being repaired on streets. These shops should be made to pay certain fees for the use of the streets as "extension" of their shops.

There ought to be a law on the above abuse of public property. See cars, vans in the Philippines are most expensive.

—CONRADO R. DE LA SERNA,
bridelaserna@yahoo.com

Extend HMO coverage beyond 65

I. Add upgrading to one intermediary to ensure a later date renewal, done by the health care programs being offered by various health maintenance organizations (HMOs) in our country.

My primary concerns are the following:

1. Coverage is inapplicable to persons over the age of 65. (The limit is 65 years old for most HMOs). Needless to say is to know one gets older due to aging bodily cycle/s/ time.

2. Coverage is on a year-to-year basis and renewal is the sole prerogative of the HMO.

Incidentally, now that I am at least 66 years old, I am left with barely 1 year to my HMO coverage. With my budget limits, the limit is keeping my sanity. The same reason for me to keep others similarly situated.

I hope that President Aquino would certify the measure as urgent.

—FEDERICO R. MICHEL JR.,
welfy.miguel@yahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Nagas and Marcventa Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to 896-8797, 897-4794, or e-mail <readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph>.

All items of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Editor Rodolfa S. Mañebrino
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Road cyclists struggle behind familiar, ageless HK winner

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—The country's cycling hall of fame is 90 degrees torn for the worse.

Irish Valenzuela lost his chance to contend for a podium finish in cycling's road race event when he got caught in the bottom half of a peloton that was furiously split by a crash that took place around the final bend. Moments later, the 1500 Asiad Games hero, days shy of his 34th birthday, was out.

The 23-year-old Valenzuela was bowing to join the lead peloton in the final kilometer of the 180-km race when the group hit a sharp 90-degree bend to the last 500 meters that sent three cyclists—including one Indonesian rider Yosmin Sinaulan—sprawling.

"Kuwan crashed just in front of me, sabihing the group in the last KM," said Valenzuela, named best young rider of the 2009 Hubuk Race. "The turn was tight and it veered to the right. It looked like only two riders at a time could fit through it."

Valenzuela stayed upright but could no longer catch up with the group that made the turn before the mishap.

He finished in 4 hours 23 minutes 00.25 seconds for 24th place while Lloyd Lucien Reynante rounded up last place clocking in at 4:33:14.00.

Against Hong Kong rider Wong Kam Po, who led the event, but won that happened controversially.

Wong finished in 4:14:04.43 to final Poh Siang Hunt of South Korea. However, Poh was punished 10 dropped and finished at 19th for interference past the finish following a protest by the HK veteran.

Wong, the 37-year-old 1997 Hubuk Race champion, edged Japan's Takeshi Miyamoto and Taiwan Jun Hong Lo at the finish for the gold.

Tamayo—also a Hubuk Race veteran—failed to finish the race along with Pakistani's Hjaiera Hang Mal, the reigning Southeast Asian Games champ, who entered the crash.

However, it wasn't entirely the Valenzuela's fault.

The finish, according to a licensed race official, breaks convention with the turn near the finish. Normal races run by the UCI have straight paths from 1.5m out of the finish line.

The sport's last chance to win a medal in the country now rests on the shoulders of Marites Bilbil, the lone female entry who will campaign in the road race Tuesday.

2 more pugs gain last 4

By Ronald Trinidad

GUANGZHOU—Annie Albania and Mercito Soludo, waging battle in contrasting fashions, punched their way into the semifinals—and at least a couple more become outside for the Philippines—in yesterday's exciting quarterfinals of the Asian Games boxing competitions.

Flyweight Albania, who boasted through her opening bout Sunday, left behind after a wild, crowd-pleasing start, but finished with a blitz of power punches for a unanimous 7-3 win over North Korea's Han Hye-song, whom she dubs as the Southeast Asian Games champion.

The three-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist fights Japan's Ayaka Shimazaki Wednesday and entered not to make one statement until she has bagged the gold.

The 20-year-old Soludo fired early shots right from the start before beating India's Amandeep Singh, 6-1, to join other boxing fray in the semifinals scheduled tomorrow.

Albania, fought for titles for Team the odd title and had a shaky start as she got tagged early during the first round, but settled down to fill behind, 3-0, after two rounds.

Unlike Soludo, Albania had to make lateral cuts before she could connect with smashing right to close up, 5-all.

VICTORIO Soludo

She then charged with blinding rapid right punches to the head to pull away.

A third Filipino, welterweight Wilfredo Lopez, was to fight a tired Mongolian in the same card later in the evening, making twelve—a semifinal slot for the Philippines.

"Nagulat po ako, nasa Round 3 pa ito dapat eh, unang laban [I was surprised that was an easier fight than my first one]," Soludo told the Inquirer in his easy back to the dugout.

He said he was confident to observe his semifinal foe, Dzukpow Bimbiso of Kazakhstan, but will study a video of his fight later.

In the semifinals, flyweight Mer Soludo clashes with another Japanese, Seiya Kawaguchi, while Albania fights for a shot at the Guangzhou Asiad Olympic Sports Center in Dongguan town, Tianhe district, about 45 minutes away by bus from the athletes and media villages in the Asian Games Town.

Bagtas was active Wednesday in the men's event with unopposed impressions.

"Right now, ok! I really want it so I took my personal best," he told the Inquirer.

Bagtas's event is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon, but said he doesn't consider the comfort affecting his performance.

"When you're competing, you don't feel anything anymore," said the long jumper, who is coming off a gold-medal finish in the team Grand Prix last June in India.

Albania in semis; chessers top Indians

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—Victorio Soludo and Annie Albania assured the country of two more bronze medals in boxing, dispatching opponents Fore in almost similar fashion Monday in the 16th Asian Games at the Foshan Gymnasium here.

Albania overcame a gigantic size and acclaimed to her foe's side well in the final round to hammer out a 7-3 victory over North Korean Han Hye-song, who could not get anything going in their scuffle 9-11 by match after winning an early 2-0 edge.

Soludo, gunning for the under-49 kg crown, took the initiative early against unanimous Singh of India, then went on to win, 6-1, to join older brothers and flyweight but they in the semifinals.

"As long as we stay focused and do what we have to do in the ring, we have a good chance to this tournament," said boxing association executive director Ed Picson.

The country's two female fighters will try to secure at least a bronze when the semi bouts are dominated of Japan, an 8-4 edge over Shimazaki/Kiyoma Ta Tayet Mai.

Mclaren by grandmaster Wesley So and Eugene Torre after yesterday's Philippines' 2.5-1.5 victory over Iraq.

Mclaren, the 2008 Olympian while Torre, the sport's icon, was spot GM B. Adhiban to propel the Filipinos to eight points, two behind the powerhouse.

GM Jony Antonio drew with GM Krishnan India's no.

The country was stuck at two golds, two silvers and eight bronzes and remained fourth among Southeast Asian countries behind Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Officials are hoping for a change in the country's count when Mercedita Torres competes in the women's long jump final.

Torres will be competing in the very same venue—the Asia Shiats Stadium—where she won her 1st event at the Asian athletics championship last year.

Unable to soak Rizal's job—the Roman used her close edge in reach to take an early 2-0 lead—Albania found the opening she needed by fetching an attack to the body while unleashing a looping overhand right that often found her opponent's head.

In the process, Vishwanatha got tied up behind a crash near the finish and secured up to 1:46 place with a time of 4:15.00.22 in the men's road race.

Teammate Lloyd Lucien Reynante secured 24th first placer back at 4:15.34.00.

Wong Kam-po, the 37-year-old former Mr. Hong Kong titlist, won the gold medal after a successful protest that dropped South Korean Poh Dong-hunk—who pipped the spoken Hong Kong star at the finish—down to 19th place.

The national softball women's team also aimed to hopes for a medal goodbye after losing to Japan, 4-0, in the quarterfinals.

In bowling, the men's second crash at the team-of-four gold failed to get anywhere at the team finished with 2957 pinfalls, 475 off the lead's of gold winner South Korea.

In the men's all-events, singles gold medalist Bishop Garcia drifted lower in the standings, to ranking 32nd, so easy to eighth place for lone scoring Filipino. Rhenzel Ong, though, should compete here in the Masters finals.

FILIPINO Israel Fore is competing for the country's bronze-drawn event in athletics as the 16th Asian Games. Fore is a wound up minds with a shower of thick arrows.

So, Torre deliver as PH posts upset

Standings after two rounds:
10 points—China, 8—Philippines, 7—Mongolia, 6—India, 5—Iraq, 4—Uzbekistan, 3—Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Iraq A, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Korea 1—Malaysia, 0—Korea, 0—Jordan, Lebanon

GUANGZHOU—Project 30, the young stars and Eugene Torre, the veteran bookwise, delivered key wins as the Philippines stunned powerhouse India, 2.5-1.5, Monday and vaulted to second in the 16th Asian Games chess competition at the Guangzhou Dawn Institute.

The 17-year-old So (Elo 2600) bounced fellow Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna (Elo 2657) in their top board encounter while the 50-year-old Torre, Asia's first GM, followed suit by beating GM B. Adhiban in game 4 (Elo 2591).

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. (Elo 2571) helped secure the Filipinos' second straight victory in as many days by drawing with GM Krishnan Sasikiran (Elo 2680) in board two.

GM John Paul Gomez, heir of the Philippines' 2.5-1.5 conquest of Kazakhstan last Sunday, followed the lead as he bested in GM Iran's Berthier Ianagali to board three.

World power China continued to flaunt its might with a 3-1 crushing win over Mongolia to total to a perfect 16 points after the rounds.

The sixth-ranked Filipinos, who fared in the Chinese, 1-1 in the second round, climbed to eight points with four rounds to go.

So and Torre will again lead the Philippines against former Russian republic Uzbekistan, which drew with Kazakhstan, 2-2, Monday.

The Uzbeks will clash, not powers to GM Nomura Kazakhstan, the gold medalists in the rapid event, and Anton Filippov.

Kyrgyzstan provided the round's biggest upset when it dumped South seed Vietnam, 3.5-0.5, to wrest third place with seven points.

TORRES is the best he would

Torres back on scene of big feat

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—The coach of long jumper Mercedita Torres has high hopes for his countryhe after 16th Asian Games, already for the fact that she will be competing right in the very same venue where she notched her career's biggest victory so far.

"She is very familiar with everything and it brings back good memories," said John Ayo in Filipino. "Maybe that will help."

Torres rose the long jump gold medal in the Asian athletics championships at the Asi Main Stadium here last year—the country's first title in the discipline since Lydia de Vega's feat became a familiar sight for some two to the 1980s.

That year, Torres will attempt to repeat the Asiad medal as she and Nesty Dajudi lead the country's hopes in athletics.

"She had a good training in Germany," he revealed. "When she got back, her training was stalled a bit, after we were unconfirmed from the World Championships in Daegu as the rankings were not as good."

Then she'll be ready," the coach covered. "Hopefully we can grab a medal."

Ayo said long jumpers were conditioned to run for 12 seconds and hence, plus Torres's 6.60 personal best, could be Torres' top rivals.

Torres will see action Tuesday in the women's long jump final at around 7 p.m.

The stadium is located at the Guangzhou Asiad Olympic Sports Center in Dongguan town, Tianhe district, about 45 minutes away by bus from the athletes and media villages in the Asian Games Town.

Dajudi was active Wednesday in the men's event with unopposed impressions.

"Right now, ok! I really want it so I took my personal best," he told the Inquirer.

Dajudi's event is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon, but said he doesn't consider the comfort affecting his performance.

"When you're competing, you don't feel anything anymore," said the long jumper, who is coming off a gold-medal finish in the team Grand Prix last June in India.

Please don't drop these new boxing talents

BARE EYE

Ronald Trinidad

GUANGZHOU—A coach in the boxing tech team assured local fans he will not implement rules the gold-medal win of his career in the women's 3,000-meter competition on Sunday, the China Daily reported yesterday.

The report, penned in a hotel near the Asiad Village, offered no comment of the 13th Asian Games, currently three cities under here.

Other rules aimed to protect the men's stamina to the gold medal but had people wondering when strange standards before his set to its address.

"I'm disappointed her performances today was not slow, this time such performance will fail me," said coach Chen Jiaduan.

Either by way giddy or trying to get more attention than he deserved.

In fact, the gold winner, Sudha Singh, steadily defeated the winning time was already her personal best.

"I'm very, very happy. I did not expect to win, the Chinese girl was very fast, but I was able to deliver my best time," she declared.

Stripped bodi coach Soares, a native of Bolivia: "As soon as you are satisfied with your athlete's performance, the progress will stop."

* * *

The amazing men has to be squished following exhibit who moved from blinds that is now the most young boxers, called from the grassroots, are set to be soon used—8 and 9 years old boys from the opposite—drawn the morning pool of the Philippine Sports Commission.

It's hard to determine what standards the PSC uses for members of its scouting pool.

But knowing the grassroots program of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, those promising stars athletes have all the potentials to be future champions.

* * *

Based on the same information, there were originally a total of 48 boxers in the PSC pool during the time of chairman Ricardo Garcia's Rivera Sangguniang.

The number was later reduced to 16.

If they proceed with the reported tendency, only 27 boxers would be left in the pool.

Based on latest developments, the PSC has obviously cut new standards for the boxing pool.

However, the PSC might be pleased to know that the Abap, under the new leadership headed by sportswoman-turned-Mayor Abigail Binay, has successfully dug talents from out of the grassroots with its committed and sustained junior development programs.

* * *

A new batch of young talents has been tapped from the recent Cebu junior championship.

After 16 days with the campaign here, the Abap has produced 16 boxers for the Rizal meeting Dec. 15 for another big junior competition featuring budding talents from the provinces.

OK, but caution seems the PSC of supplementation the fund.

However, we are duly assured by Abap by the existence of the Cebu feeders whose boxers have repeatedly been put on the shopping block.

For the record, the talent of the Sabalza brothers, Anthony Marvin, were made possible through the Abap junior development program of the Abap.

However, those are from the PSC, like their giddy coach of the Indian track stars, despite their adopted strange training methods of its own.

PH five in must-win duel with Taiwanese

By Jun Mendoza

GUANGZHOU—The finest Gilas Philippines five dumped winless India, 79-57, Sunday night but found itself in a must-win situation against Chinese Taipei for a quarterfinal berth in the 16th Asian Games basketball competition at the Ying Dong Gymnasium here.

With Qatar entering the third quarterfinal slot in Group F after upsetting Japan, the Filipinos, now with a 2-2 record, need to handle the Taiwanese (1-3) in a game scheduled late Monday night to likewise advance.

A win would give Chinese Taipei the fourth and last quarterfinal berth under the winner-over-the-other rule that will break the 2-2 tie.

If the Filipinos win, they get defending champion China as quarterfinal foe under the crossover pairings getting the Group E top scorer against Group F's No. 2 qualifier.

The Chinese topped its group by downing South Korea, 75-66, also Sunday.

As things stood, Japan and Qatar share the lead in Group F at 3-1 along with Asian champion Iran, which topped Chinese Taipei, 75-72.

Team captain Chris Tiu poured 11 of his 13 points in the third period as Smart Gilas used a 61-41 lead, from a tight 21-20 halftime edge against India.

"We're a little bit tight because of the result of Qatar's game against Japan," said Smart Gilas coach Eugene Tanseco.

The Qataris, beaten by the Filipinos, 90-66, Wednesday, edged the Japanese, 80-67, Sunday and hold the lineup tie-breaker edge.

"We have to decide our own destiny," said Tanseco. "There's no other way but to win against Chinese Taipei. We have to smash them one and stop their three-gunners."

If they handle the Taiwanese, the Filipinos could still end up facing the homestar in the quarterfinals, provided host China loses Qatar.

Down to 10 men due to injuries, Tanseco gave Marcio Lassiter, who is hampered by a groin injury, limited minutes against India.

JV Cruz suffered a minor leg injury while Tiu also bore his groin, but the three are expected to suit up against the Taiwanese, who knocked the Filipinos to the Asiad Cagefest July.

Philippines 79—Cruz 13, Tiu 13, Custodio 10, Lee 10, Ildefonso 7, Salvador 7, Sangalang 6, Lassiter 5, Jazul 4, Reyes 0, Ravena 0, Mendoza 0, Ramos 0, Ebona 0.

India 57—Singh 20, Sharma 8, Singh 7, Singh 7, Prasad 5, Bhatt 4, Singh 4, Singh 2, Gurbaksh 0, Mehta 0, Gurbaksh 0. HT: 41-21.

Divers unfazed by scant support

By Francis TJ. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—Diving Blue Pores had very little expectations coming into the Asian Games.

Who could blame her?

The country's divers received very little support. They trained in drop-infested pools. Sometimes, there were even no pool to train in. And when she visited an official to remedy the situation, she was told to talk to someone else.

Imagine her surprise then when, during diving practice at the Aoti Aquatics Center Athletic competition and Date coaches watched them approvingly.

"They were saying that we were doing a good job," said the 24-year-old Dorey. "I told them that we only started preparing for the Games less than two weeks before we left Manila, and they were surprised."

Dorey, the coolest face of a diving squad whose members are virtually unheard-dare ski's even in the aquatics hierarchy in the entire country, until the end her teammates would only look tightly as their counterparts spoke of their frustrating before the Games.

"Some coaches had 1-3 Chinese coaches, some had four technical training for a long time," said Dorey. "We had less than three weeks and sometimes...There were even Congo in our pool. Sometimes there was no water."

Pacquiao may go for historic ninth crown

By Roy Luarca

MANNY PACQUIAO may yet go for an unthinkable ninth world title in as many divisions.

The newly crowned World Boxing Organization welterweight champion reiterated yesterday that he's willing to face anybody, including WBC middleweight titlist Sergio Martinez of Argentina.

Martinez knocked out tested American Paul Williams in the second round on Saturday to keep his 168-pound title and has himself up for a rematch fight against either pound-for-pound king Pacquiao or unbeaten American Floyd Mayweather Jr.

To level the playing field, however, Pacquiao told ABS-CBN.com that the fight must not be held in either of Olympians.

But the 5-foot-10 Martinez (45-2-2 with 25 knockouts) thumbed down a fight with Pacquiao, telling Boxingscene.com: "Pacquiao is too small. It would be a mismatch. I don't believe that it will ever happen."

The 35-year-old Martinez, who was dropped by Antonio Margarito in seven rounds in 2006, said he'd prefer facing Mayweather.

Pacquiao, Golden of a record eighth crown in as many divisions, dismissed Margarito-slayers they climbed for the WBC super welterweight crown on Nov. 13 at the same UNO Events Stronghold.

The boxing congressman, who was reinstated the Congressional Medal of Distinction by his colleagues yesterday, also mentioned Shane Mosley and Mayweather as probable opponents.

The 31-year-old Pacquiao, who wants to keep on fighting until he's 35, said he's willing to tangle with Juan Manuel Marquez for the third time, provided that there is a guaranteed purse and the Mexican's camp handles all the promotions.

In an interview with Boxingscene.com, trainer Freddie Roach mentioned Mayweather, Martinez and WBC welterweight champion Andre Berto as leading candidates to face Pacquiao next, probably in May or June.

Petrocco Bob Arum said he no longer wants to pit Pacquiao against bigger opponents because they are revealing him down.

PACQUIAO: Going for No. 9!

WORLD OF SPORTS

Gasol leads Lakers past Warriors

LOS ANGELES—Pau Gasol scored 28 points on 13-for-18 shooting, Kobe Bryant added 20 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame fourth-straight victory with a 117-89 blowout of the Golden State Warriors on Sunday.

Lamar Odom had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who beat their rivals to win for the 11th straight time. It was their defending champions' 12th win in 14 games.

In Sunday, Kyrie Johnson made his first season with 17 seconds left and added Andrew Bogut scored 28 as the Warriors spent Boston, 107-102. It was a straight game losing streak against the Celtics.

In other games, the Charlotte Hornets edged the Sacramento Kings, 75-71, and the Detroit Pistons outlasted the Washington Wizards in overtime, 119-112. AP

Federer, Murray win opener

LONDON—Roger Federer and Andy Murray won their opening matches Sunday at the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals.

The second-seeded Federer beat David Nalbandian 6-1, 6-4, in the match that opened at the O2 Arena, while Murray defeated Robin Soderling 6-2, 6-4.

Federer, a four-time champion at the tournament, is the top eight players in the world, established his record to 11 against the seventh-ranked Nalbandian, dominating the first set and grooving shots all around the court.

Soderling will take the court on Monday with Top-ranked Rafael Nadal facing Novak Djokovic and Tomas Berdych playing Tomas Berdych. AP

Armstrong now into triathlon

AUSTRALIA—Seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong is to compete in a triathlon and 4-time Zealand after he finishes his controversial cycling career at Australia's Tour Down Under next month as organizers have said.

Armstrong will compete at the Blue Lake Multisport festival on Jan. 29 and 30.

The 39-year-old American finished the last race he competed in the world after he posted the comeback of 4 brought to this after spokesman Jose Perez's Twitter account.

Organizers chartered the entries into the announcement being documented his name, confirmed receiving 1 sponsorships. Reuters

NATIONALISTS proud Pauline make moves for a reverse layup off Mapua's Mark Barangan in yesterday's game. JOAN TAYLO

DLSU, Mapua reach q'finals

Archers avenge 2009 PCCL loss

By Cedelf P. Rojas

LA SALLE avenged its Sweet 16 loss to Letran last season as the Archers eliminated the Knights, 79-56, yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League at the FEGS Hiring V. Arena in San Juan.

The Archers rode on Jun Manzo's hot shooting in the first half to build an early double-digit lead that proved enough when the Knights came within the final's game five.

Filling the scoring void in the absence of Joshua Webb, who is on leave, Manzo buried 14 of his 27 points in the first half when the Archers built a 26-point bubble en route to a quarterfinal duel with the winner of the Sun Belt University of the East clash.

Manzo, showing a breakaway performance from Wilbi Pacada, complemented Rookie Rookwell Hammond 11, 7-14-11, to also reach the quarterfinals.

The Archers 5 Banks, who averaged just three points in the last MCAA season, shot 22 points on 10-of-13 shooting and grabbed six rebounds, but his performance was marred by a moment of madness with two minutes left when he punched Nigerian center Emmanuel Mbe Gebo.

Since his infraction is not covered by PCCL rules, Pacada will not be suspended in the quarterfinals, where the Cardinals will meet defending UAAP champion Ateneo or Lyceum.

The scores:

La Salle (79)—Manzo 27, Hammond 11, Tampus 10, Quidachay 8, Mendoza 6, Sunday 5, Dandan 3, Pabel 2, Cabanero 2, Cabanero 2, Jamin 0, Bautista 0, Ramos 0, Mbe 0, Pacada 0, Ambocio 10, Dungca 13, Mbe 7, Pacada 0, Cabanero 2, Nieto 2, Cabanero 2, Pabel 2, Mendoza 6, Sunday 5, Dandan 3, Manzo 27, Hammond 11, Tampus 10, Quidachay 8, Bautista 0, Ramos 0, Jamin

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DID YOU KNOW

The first Lotto draw was held on March 9, 1995 and had a total jackpot prize of P2 million. **Kate Pedroza, Inquirer Research**

Explain, CHR asks cops in shoot-out

Police team in operation vs car theft gang leader under probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) has asked the police men who took alleged carjack gang leader Ivan Padilla to the hospital following a shoot-out in August to comment on the observation of medical personnel that they did not seem to be in a hurry when they brought him in for treatment.

Commissioner Jose Manuel Mamauag said the CHR wanted to give the police officers who had conducted the operation against Padilla the chance to submit supplemental statements in order to see their side.

Padilla, 23, was wounded in a shoot-out with members of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) anti-car theft unit led by Supt. Dharlo Mendez. He sustained a gunshot wound to the head and was brought to the Ospital ng Makati (OSMAK) where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Questions, however, arose when an autopsy report listed his cause of death as asphyxiation. In addition, before he was taken to the hospital by policemen, Padilla appeared to be bleeding from a head wound but seemed well enough to respond lucidly to the questions of a television crew who was at the scene.

The CHR started investigating Padilla's death following allegations that the NCRPO team which conducted the police operation may have committed human rights violations.

Padilla and his group were the suspects in the theft of the vehicles of a Japanese citizen, Fumiaki Ambo and of Roberto Bernabe and the father of actor Derek Ramsay.

CHR investigators said they had based their observations on interviews with the Makati personnel who said that the police vehicle that had brought Padilla to the hospital was traveling at roughly 20 km per hour.

Mamauag said the concerned policemen had also been asked to r spond to the statements made by hospital personnel about the state in which Padilla was taken to the hospital.

The findings of the CHR investigators would then be forwarded to the head of the team that had conducted the police operation for comment.

After the policemen had aired their side, the investigators' report would be submitted to the CHR legal division for evaluation and for the crafting of policies that would govern the rules of engagement.

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INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

FPIC hires team to study, clean up site of oil leak

By Nico Calleja

THE LOMELEC Fire Philippine Industrial Gas (FPIC) has signed an agreement with a team composed of Filipino and foreign experts to conduct a thorough investigation and assessment of Barangay Bangkal in Makati City following an oil leak at the basement of the 23-story Palm Tower condominium.

Anthony Mabesa, FPIC officer-in-charge, said the U.S.-based CTEH Hill, a group of technical decontamination experts, was chosen "primarily for its practical experience and track record."

He added that the team signed a contract with FPIC on Nov. 12 and had already started evaluating the Guadalupe "Project Bangkal."

According to Mabesa, the environmental study and cleanup were considered with the temporary environmental protection order (TEPO) issued by the Supreme Court against FPIC last week. TEPO is a temporary restraining order issued by environment cases.

"We want to know the extent of the contamination, how much it moves and in which direction," CHOM Hill hydrogeologist Edmund Pigozzi Jr. told reporters in a press briefing in Ortigas, Pasig City.

He refused to say how long the study and cleanup would take, saying it was still premature to give a timeline.

Taguig U students hold protest

By Hiba Marabe

AROUND 100 students of Taguig City University (TCU) yesterday held a rally to call for the resignation of a school official and demand that they be allowed to enter the campus to attend their classes.

The protest against Ana Marie Calaquit, TCU vice president for administration, was also attended by TCU president Bro. Rolando Bajon and TCU vice president for academic affairs Louie Montemor.

In an interview, Dizon said that the student movement learned from the campus after they were identified as the ones who held another rally last week.

He claimed that he himself was banned from the school grounds based on an order issued by Calaquit.

Calaquit was appointed to the university by Taguig Mayor Ma. Laarni Cayetano while Dizon was named to his post by TCU board of regents (BOR) which was constituted during the term of Lauluna's political rival and predecessor, Tomas Mapua and now Rep. Sigfrido "Freddie" Tinga.

Cayetano defeated Tinga's ballot mate/ Associate Assistant Bam Tiaga, for the mayor's post in the May elections.

Dizon said he remained, Calaquit said she was not about to step down as the elected she was appointed by the mayor and only Cayetano could ask her to resign.

"Me signed my contract," she told the Inquirer over the phone. "Unless I am terminated for fact, I will not step down."

According to her, the student-initiated protest yesterday's protest would be subject to regular their action.

At the same time, she denied that she had banned some students from entering the campus as she clarified that only those who bring unpleasant were barred from TCU campus.

"Their action is causing a disruption of classes and we cannot afford that," she explained, adding that the university has designated a open where students could air their grievances.

Dizon, meanwhile, said that all that the city government and Calaquit had to do was "recognize the authority of the BOR" and the issue would be over.

Calaquit and Dizon have long been at odds after the former joined the opposed elected executive of the TCU and Dizon refused to take action. For his part, Bajon said Calaquit refused to give details of her report when he asked her to.

ARMED FORCES AND POLICE MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION INC

Col Benny Serrano Rd Cor EDSA Quezon City

AFP Mutual Benefit Association Inc. wishes to inform the general public that the sale of its Global City properties through public bidding is suspended until further notice. For further information, please see or call us at no. 912-5482.

(Sgd) BGEN RICARDO C. MORALES AFP (RET)
Chairman, Special Bids and Award Committee

CALL POEA

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BFAR Compound, Bldg 45, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 925-5200
Fax Nos. (632) 920-4013

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, BFAR, Department of Agriculture hereby qualified bidders to participate in the bidding of the following items/s:

NO.	QTY	UNIT	PARTICULARS	Approved Budget (ABC)	Bidder's Bid
1	1	lot	Renovation of the Product Laboratory Refrigeration for the 1/10/2 aircondition	700,000.00	
2	1	lot	Construction of Laboratory Roofing	300,700.00	

Bid Documents shall be available at the BFAR Property Section starting November 23, 2010 upon payment of the non-refundable bidder's fee.

Pre-bid Conference will be on December 01, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. at the BFAR-BAC Conference Room, POA Compound, Bagumbayan Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility and technical and financial proposal in three envelopes, one original and two copies must be submitted at the BFAR-BAC Conference Room POA Compound, Bagumbayan Road, Diliman, Quezon City not later than 9:00 A.M. on December 14, 2010 and shall be opened on the same date and time in the presence of the participating bidders.

The office reserves the right to any or all bids without offering any reason, waived any required formalities and award the contract to any eligible and responsible bidder(s) by the BAC as the most advantageous to the government. The BAC reserves no obligation to participate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ANGELITA C. GARMENTIO, JD.**
Director

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Wholly Owned Corporation with a Vested Mission and a Pilipino Heart

INVITATION TO BID FOR
ONE (1) LOT TWO (2) YEARS SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF FIVE (5) UNITS ELEVATORS AND FOUR (4) UNITS ESCALATORS AT AIRPORT CASINO FILIPINO
ITB NO. 10-08-2010

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	Preventive Maintenance for Passenger Elevator	Five (5) Units
2	Preventive Maintenance for Escalator	Four (4) Units
3	Emergency Repair Service	Twenty-four (24) hours
4	Spare Parts	Lump Sum
5	Duration of Contract	Two (2) Years
6	Mode of Payment	Monthly
7	Terms of Payment	Thirty (30) days after submission of billing statement
8	Contract Price	Lump Sum
9	Bid Security	Two percent (2%) of the ABC
10	Performance Security	Ten percent (10%) of the Contract Price
11	Liquidated Damages	One tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the value of the contract per day of delay
12	Validity of Bid	120 calendar days
13	Bid Opening	December 15, 2010 at 10:00 A.M.
14	Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2010 at 10:00 A.M.
15	Venue of Bid Opening	Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PAGCOR Main Office Building
16	Bid Documents	Php 5,000.00
17	Contact Person	Ms. Ma. Cristina Cruz
18	Contact Number	522-4744
19	Email Address	mcruz@pagcor.ph

Complete bid documents may be purchased from the BAC Secretariat, 7th Floor, Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation, PAGCOR Main Office Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila starting November 23, 2010 to December 14, 2010 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. SIMON SO-QUIMPO, JR.
Chairperson, BAC and Deputy Corporate Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE BANK OF CONGRESSMEN
Congressional Commission
Batasan Hills, San Jose, Phil. Commonwealth

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Board of Governors of the House Bank of Congressmen (HBC), Batasan Hills, San Jose, Phil. Commonwealth, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the following projects:

PROJECT No.	LOCATION	AREA in Hectare	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (Pesos or Php)
1	Batasan Hills	1,100 sq.	
2	Batasan Hills		

The Invitation to Bid is open to all contractors duly licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with appropriate category and size classification and registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and other government agencies.

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

The HBC reserves the right to reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the HBC, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. SIMON SO-QUIMPO, JR.**
Chairperson, BAC and Deputy Corporate Counsel

1st anniversary of Maguindanao massacre

TODAY IS the first anniversary of the Maguindanao massacre, the most heinous atrocity committed by Filipinos against fellow Filipinos in post-era Philippines.

The Ampatuans committed atrocities against Filipinos clan-based Pow II leader Datu who swallow rubies is now accused for murders to commit crudely against each other.

The 57 victims were not enemies of the Ampatuans as most of them were unarmed women and media people.

The cruelty suffered motherhood—shot in close range, shot repeatedly, some of them with their private parts mutilated, one woman shot in her genitals...defies logic.

We should be thankful that President Aquino's term was about to end in six months before the massacre took place.

Otherwise, the Ampatuans would be enjoying immunity for the gruesome murders of innocent people.

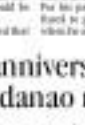
The President would have defended the Ampatuans with all the powers at her disposal if her term was not about to end.

The Ampatuans were responsible for giving some Fernando Jr., but closer kind, the towns in Maguindanao during the 2004 presidential election.

In return, Gloria showered them with millions lucrative supposedly to fight off the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and underground communist forces but intelligence fund.

But the biggest favor the pair the dynasties to occupy for her victory in 2004 was the judicial power of life and death over their constituents.

Reports reached Malacañang about the atrocities committed by the Ampatuans against people who crossed them, such as slicing their necrosis with a chainsaw, but President Gloria never as much as reprimanded them.



Harrison Tagle

That's the reason the Ampatuans were emboldened into committing the Maguindanao massacre.

GMA is so much to blame for the massacre as the Ampatuans.

She should also have been charged in court for condoning the crimes of the Ampatuans.

I am grateful to Comedians Sur Gov. Luis Raymundo Jr., Sn. Juhn Gregorio Lubo, Nico Geo, Bernardo Pena, ex-Mayor Gilmar Parmanes of San Jose, for giving me the chance to serve the locals in their provinces.

Doctors and nurses from St. Luke's Medical Center's Anglophysan Foundation operation 182 patients with cleft lips, goiter hernia and eyes at the Nueva Ecija Sports Complex in Cabanatuan City and Pacific Regional Hospital in San Jose, over from Nov. 18 to 20.

The medical mission would not have been successful without the officials' help.

Join your batchmates from AB, BS, BSBA and from High School '56 in a series of exciting reunion activities starting November 30. Don't miss this opportunity to get together and bond with your old classmates in one big reunion.

CARPE DIEM!

Call the following for details:
Menchet Abiel - 426-5748 ● Gary Kalaglan - 810-2248 ● Mari Javier - 825-2166

METROBRIEFS

Turnover of Intramuros pushed

THE MANILA City government has expressed its intention to take back administrative control over the historical City of Intramuros from key agency of the national government, a City official said.

Mayor Alfredo Lim has directed the rehabilitation and development of the Walled City to undo the turf battles of the Intramuros Administration, creation of a committee is also under Presidential Decree No. 1616. Twenty-five percent, however, is taken with that every basic services to residents in the area. The city government, however, maintains that the Intramuros Administration has failed to address the basic needs of residents, a Commission based non-government organization, released a report including infrastructural and civil buildings in a list of 200 potential heritage sites including crumbling that were suffering "irreversible loss and damage" due to "insufficient management and inadequate maintenance."

Jayson T. Cinco

Fil-Am fugitive arrested

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is set to deport a Filipino-American fugitive to the United States years ago in the US territory of Guam for the alleged sale and distribution of child pornography, an official said on Monday.

NBI Foreign Liaison Division Head Dave de Castro Jr. said that Mario Mercader, 60, a US green card holder, was arrested by foreign operatives last week after he was spotted by airport personnel at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Bomb scare disrupts classes

A BOMB scare in an elementary school in Malabon City caused yesterday forenoon suspension of classes and the cancellation of a courtesy call to the mayor by newly inducted city police chief Senior Supt. Jonnalie Barcenas as he had to rush to the site. Police Lt. Col. Jaime Bautista, officer-in-charge of Tonsuya Elementary School, said they received a text message at around 9 a.m. about a bomb device that had been planted on the school premises.

Cecilia Nikka Rimpang

N. Zealand braces for deaths as rescue drags on

GREYMOUTH, New Zealand —Rescuers said on Monday they feared possible deaths after a blast at a New Zealand colliery left 29 men missing, as the mother of one 17-year-old said she prepared for the worst.

The trapped workers have not been heard from since the explosion tore through the Pike River colliery on Friday, with hardened rescuers unable to go underground due to a cocktail of dangerous gases in the South Island mine.

Emergency crews were clothing a small hole drawn to the mine shaft to drive a diverse picture of conditions in the pit, but the rescue operation cited said they had to prepare for fatalities.

"We still remain optimistic, we're still keeping an open mind but we are planning for all outcomes and that also includes ... the possible loss of life in a result of what's occurred," police superintendent Gary Knowles said.

Prime Minister John Key had said there was "every chance" the men were still alive. But as the rescue dragged on, New Zealanders were left contemplating the grim prospect of the country's worst mining disaster in almost a century.

One of the missing miners is a 17-year-old Joseph Dunbar, who was on his first day in the job, having persuaded bosses to let him step over the line five days down a mine only before officially starting work on Monday.

Dunbar's mother Pip Tinson told the Herald this week.

"At first I was too shocked to believe. It was his first day," she told TV3.

But Tinson said "you've got to deal with it, and I just keep thinking about how happy he was, how ecstatic he was, it's what keeps me going". Australian miner Steve Webb, who rendered two weeks trapped in a mine in 2005, told Dunbar to "never give up hope"—and adds, set have pointed to the dramatic rescue of 33 miners trapped for more than two months in Chile.

In southwestern Chile on Monday, rescuers pulled to safety 29 people trapped in a flood of mire, in a run for of good

Reprinted from The Philippine Star and Philippine Daily Inquirer

news for the country's disaster-prone coal industry.

One of only two men to make it out of the New Zealand mine, treated in a remote region on the country's western coast, described an extremely powerful explosion that blew him off his feet.

It sounded like a "shotgun blast but much louder and more than two seconds in Chile.

In southwestern Chile on Monday, rescuers pulled to safety 29 people trapped in a flood of mire, in a run for of good news for the country's disaster-prone coal industry.

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It sounded like a "shotgun blast but much louder and more than two seconds in Chile.

"I got up and there was thick white smoke everywhere—you couldn't see your hand in front of your face," Malcolm Campbell told the Herald.

"I put my shirt over my mouth and I just keep thinking about how happy he was, how ecstatic he was, it's what keeps me going".

Another miner Steve Webb, who rendered two weeks trapped in a mine in 2005, told Dunbar to "never give up hope"—and adds, set have pointed to the dramatic rescue of 33 miners trapped for more than two months in Chile.

In southwestern Chile on Monday, rescuers pulled to safety 29 people trapped in a flood of mire, in a run for of good

Climate time bomb: Thawing of Siberian permafrost speeds up release of methane

CHERSKY, Russia—The Russian scientist shuffles across the frozen lake, swaddled inside an ice-deep snow until he finds a cluster of bubbles trapped under the ice. With a cigarette lighter in one hand and a bottle in the other he lassoes the ice like a Metric Methane whoosh as out and bounds into a dim blue flame.

Gas leaked inside Siberian frozen soil and under its lakes has been seeping out since the end of the last ice age 14,000 years ago. But in the past few decades, as the Earth has warmed, that icy ground has begun thawing more rapidly, accelerating the release of methane—a greenhouse gas 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide—and a problem even.

Some scientists believe the thawing of permafrost could become the epicenter of climate change. They say 1.3 billion tons of carbon, locked inside unbound earth since the age of mammoths, is a climate time bomb waiting to explode if released into the atmosphere.

"Here, intact carbon storage is like all the rich forests of our planet put together," says Sergei Zimov—"here" being the endless sweep of tundra and ice stretching toward Siberia's Arctic coast. Zimov, from Zimov's research facility nearly 350 kilometers above the Arctic Circle.

Climate change moves back to center stage on Nov. 29 when governments meet in Cancun, Mexico, to try again to clinch real a request of countries serious. But 339 officials held out an hope the two weeks of talks will lead to a legally binding accord governing carbon emissions, seen is the key to averting what is feared might be a disastrous change to climate this century.

Short climate disorders, with a few disasters, say human activities—the stuff of daily life like driving cars, producing electricity or raising cattle—is overloading the atmosphere with carbon dioxide, methane and other gases that trap heat, causing a warming effect.

But global warming is amplified in the polar regions. What feels like a modest temperature rise is enough to induce Greenland glaciers to retreat, Arctic ice to thin and current to worsen, and permafrost to thaw more, both on land and under the seabed.

Yet awareness of methane leaks from permafrost is so new that it was not even mentioned in the seminal 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which warned of rising sea levels, inundating coastal cities, drastic shifts in rainfall disrupting agriculture and drinking water, the spread of diseases and the extinction of species.

"In my view, methane is a serious deeper risk than that contained in 'over the hump,'" said Robert Gould, an unnamed '03 climate change researcher and Arctic specialist. Gould, speaking by telephone from a conference in Miami, said he and other 20 scientists are pushing Washington to deploy satellites to gather more information on methane leaks.

AP

Vytorin helps people with kidney disease, says study

PATIENTS WITH chronic kidney disease who took Vytorin, a cholesterol-lowering pill, had one-sixth fewer heart attacks, strokes or operations to unblock their arteries than patients taking a placebo, according to new results of a study presented on Saturday.

The main benefit was not in reducing the risk of heart attacks and related deaths but in reducing the artery operations and certain kinds of strokes, according to the data presented at a meeting of kidney specialists this weekend in Denver.

The difference in operations to unblock arteries—264 in the treated group compared with 312 in the placebo group—was statistically significant, said Dr. Colin Baigent, a professor at Oxford University and one of two principal investigators on the study.

But the disparity between the groups was not statistically significant for major coronary problems, he said. There were 213 such events, including heart attacks and deaths, in the group that took the cholesterol pill compared with 230 in the placebo group. The study even thought it was large, but not included enough people to demonstrate a significant difference in heart attacks and related deaths, he said.

The cholesterol treatment also had no significant impact in slowing the progression of disease, specifically in reducing the need for persons to start dialysis or to have kidney transplants, he said.

The five-year study, called the Shrink trial, involved more than 9,000 patients who were randomly assigned to take either a placebo or Vytorin, a combination drug. The study continues in one pill two different kinds of treatments—a statin called simvastatin and a newer drug called ezetimibe, also known as Zetia—that lower LDL or "bad" cholesterol.

The study, coordinated by researchers at Oxford University and funded primarily by Merck, manufacturer whether patients with chronic kidney disease are at high risk for heart problems, could subtly benefit from significantly reducing their bad cholesterol.

After the Oxford researchers sent out an upbeat press release saying that the combination pill could help people with chronic kidney disease avoid the pain and surgeries to open blocked arteries, Merck issued its own press release with a positive, but more sober, assessment.

In an interview, Baigent said his figure was an extrapolation that collected the number of problems that might be reduced if people took the drug as prescribed—just the way they had in the study, in which one-third of both treated and placebo patients stopped taking their pills.

New York Times News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Ireland lands bailout of up to 90B euros

BRUSSELS—Ireland clinched a bailout as pressure shrinking from Tokyo to Toronto pushed Europe and the IMF to plough up to 90 billions to calm the euro zone's second emergency rescue this year.

"The government has made a request for financial assistance to the European Union and the European authorities have agreed," Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen said late Sunday after a crisis cabinet meeting in Dublin. Finance Minister Brian Lenihan said partners "have not intervened to set out figures," but diplomatic held 67.9 "The amount envisaged is between 80 and 90 billion euros" ($110 and $123 billion). AFP

Thai fetus morgue to become meditation center

BANGKOK—The morgue at a Buddhist temple where 2,000 fetuses that alleged abortions were discovered last week is to be dismantled and replaced by a meditation center, the government said on Sunday. The fetuses and to be cremated after autopsies are performed and coroners' inquests into the deaths of the mothers, father or the people on Saturday or monks chant Buddhist prayers of mourning. Since the fetuses' discovery, people have been placing offerings of milk, baby clothes and toys at the temple morgue. An undertaker admitted that he had been secretly storing the fetuses in the vaults of the crematorium after the hospital's furnace broke down. When he also began burying them in vain, the crematorium's stench drew complaints from neighbors and led to their discovery. New York Times News Service

Tigers could be extinct in 12 years if unprotected

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Wild tigers could become extinct in 12 years if countries where they still roam fail to take quick action to protect their habitats and step up the fight against poaching, global wildlife experts warn a "last summit" on Sunday. The Soviet Wildlife Fund can allow experts say only about 3,200 tigers remain in the wild, a dramatic plunge from an estimated 100,000 a century ago. Jonnie Leape, director general of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, said the figure is so frightening that if the proper protective measures aren't taken, tigers may disappear by 2022. Harvard Chinese scientist most of the tiger. Their habitat is being destroyed by forest cutting and construction, and they are a valuable luxury for poachers who want their skins and body parts prized in Chinese traditional medicine. The summit approved a wide-ranging program with the goal of doubling the world's tiger population in the wild by 2022 backed by governments of the 13 countries that still have tigers: Russia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam and Russia. AP

North Koreans' life span lags South Koreans'

SEOUL—North Koreans live an estimated 11 years fewer than South Koreans due mainly to malnutrition that adversely affects births and causes more people to die earlier, a South government report said Monday. Life expectancy in the impoverished communist state fell sharply in 1990s before some revival, according to Statistics Korea. The report, citing data from the United Nations and Pyongyang, estimated life expectancy for men at 64.8 years and 71.7 years for women—11.2 years and 11.3 years fewer than the same figure in the South. The state statistical body also estimated a population loss of about 610,000 in the decade after the famine began in the mid-1990s, with 452,000 since deaths than usual and 158,000 born births. AFP

Jetliner returns to JFK after alert

NEW YORK—A Mexico-bound jetliner that took off from Kennedy International Airport on Sunday afternoon returned to the airport for an emergency landing after there were reports that it was on fire and that the pilot had complained of engine problems. AP/YAP

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

Procurement of Basic Office Supplies for the Lower Courts for the 1st Semester of 2011

The Supreme Court intends to apply, through the **General Appropriations Act**, the sum of **Four Million Fifty-Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php4,052,200.00)** inclusive of Value-Added Tax (VAT), being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), to payments under the contract for the **Procurement of Basic Office Supplies for the Lower Courts for the 1st Semester of 2011.**

The Supreme Court Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (**SAC-GS**) now invites bids for the above-stated procurement. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a similar contract to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II, Instructions to Bidders. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **November 23, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents **in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00).** It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Supreme Court, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Supreme Court will hold the **Pre-Bid Conference on November 30, 2010, 0E3 Conference Room, 4th Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila at 2:30 p.m.**, which should be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **December 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall immediately follow at the **Old Session Hall, 1st Floor, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila** in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.

The Supreme Court SAC-GS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to the:
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) Secretariat
OCA Conference Room 2
3/F Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Ave., Manila
Telefax No. (632) 5210102

ATTY. MARIA LOURDES P. A. SERENO
Chairperson, SAC-GS

ATTY. EDGAR O. ARICHETA
Member, SAC-GS

ATTY. JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Member, SAC-GS

ATTY. JOHN T. CHOKLAMAJA
Deputy Clerk of Court and Chief Administrative Officer, and Vice-Chairperson, BAC-GS

(PNA – November 23, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
BASIC-NCR Building, 2617 Olympia St.,
Makati, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
FLIGHT RACK TRAVELS PRIVATE LIMITED (Unit C-3-21 14/F Renaissance Towers, Ortigas Center, 1600 Mandaluyong City)	Ramesh Sawmani Indian	Commercial Controller
LIBELLE CREATIVE, INC. (Room 101-1st Flr. Cuenco Bldg. 330 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City)	Charlotte Nicolas Bray British	Chief Executive Officer
ACCENTURE, INC. (9/F BPO, Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Felix Fernandez Spaniard	Accounts Payable Processor for Japanese Account
FRONTIER TRAVEL & TOURS CORP. (2nd Floor, Bldg., Gonzalez Municipal Hall, Pasay City)	Fengguo Yan Korean	Assistant Finance Manager
CONSTRUCTION NEW ZEALAND, MANILA BRANCH PO Box 2230 MCPO 1272, Makati City)	Philip Bracken New Zealand	Construction Manager
CLAY CONSTRUCTION CORP. (#1, 5th Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City)	Andrew Nicholas Lumsdale British	Consultant
MING ALEX/MING DATA PROCESSING (PHILIPPINES) INC. (Unit 6, Angeleno, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City)	Robert Lawrence British	Head – IT Quality Assurance Services
BONNEVILLE CONSULTANT CORP. (GF-BDO Corporate Center, 7899 Makati Ave., Makati City)	Jacob Sael Israeli	Sales Representative
SYSEC CORPORATION (Business Center 008-09, Ground Floor, Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City)	Jaehoon Kim Korean	Sales Representative
GOOD PEOPLE'S CORP. (Business Center Unit 12 Ground Floor Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City)	Hee Sung Seol Korean	Supervisor
CMG-HAIR SALONS, INC. (Unit 1 G/F, MGA Home Center, Ortigas Ave., Barangka Drive, Barangka, Mandaluyong City)	Sihwan Kim Korean	Administrator
SAE-PRO SYSTEMS, INC. (#20 Annex 88, Barangka Business Park, Barangka, Mandaluyong City)	Bukwon Hwang Malaysian	Unit Manager
PALLADIUM METALWORKING DEV. CORP. (LLI Tidoral Plaza Bldg., Granite St., Binondo, Manila)	Seungjun Li Chinese	Finance Manager
PALLADIUM METALWORKING DEV. CORP. (LLI Tidoral Plaza Bldg., Granite St., Binondo, Manila)	Yujun Guan Chinese	Supervisor
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. (4/F Technopoint Tower, PCIBC Plaza, 5653 Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Qiao Zhu Chinese	Quality Head Operations Executive
JEWELERS PHILIPPINES, INC. (#1-2G Leveriza Business Center, Manila)	Haridas Adi Indian/Sindhi	Public Relations Officer
MAHENDAR TRADING CORPORATION (Unit Genesis St., 201, Metro Alabang, Muntinlupa City)	Dilip Singh Indian	Sales Manager
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. (4/F Technopoint Tower, PCIBC Plaza, 5653 Ayala Ave., Makati City)	Lam Kim Ho Malaysian	Quality Head Operations Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application(s), please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. REYNERIO U. HORMINDO
Regional Director

(PNA – November 23, 2010)

Lira Lorraine B. Cinco

The WORLD

International alarm

New N. Korea nuclear facility angers US, Japan, S. Korea

SEOUL—North Korea's claims to have a working uranium enrichment plant—a possible second route to a nuclear bomb—sparked anger on Monday in Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

Top US defense officials said the plant would give the hard-line communist state the potential to build more nuclear weapons, while Japan called the disclosure "absolutely unacceptable," and South Korea issued "grave concern." Washington's special envoy for Pyongyang Stephen Bosworth said the news was provocative but "not a crisis," and he left the door open for engagement with the reclusive communist state.

Akaow Seiln-yang after a US scientist revisited he had toured a modern, new uranium enrichment plant equipped with at least 1,000 centrifuges on Nov. 12 at the North's Yongbyon nuclear complex.

Stanford University professor Siegfried Hecker called the facility "stunning," adding he was told it was already producing low-enriched uranium although there was no way to confirm if the plant was fully operational.

"It is possible that Pyongyang's latest moves are directed primarily at eventually generating modernized electricity" he wrote in a report. "But the military potential of uranium enrichment technology is serious." Hecker said his guides told him there were in fact 2,000 centrifuges already producing low-enriched uranium to help fuel a nuclear power reactor. They insisted it was for a civilian nuclear electricity program.

The US top military officer, Adm. Michael Mullen, told ABC television the assumption is "that they continue to head in the direction of additional nuclear weapons." Defense Secretary Robert Gates, speaking in Bolivia, said "no enrichment plant like this, assuming that is what it is, obviously gives (them the potential to create a number more) (nuclear weapons)." South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-hyung told Parliament that Seoul and Washington share "grave concerns," while Japan's top government spokesperson Yoshito Sengoku called the development "absolutely unacceptable." As part of a six-nation pact, the North in 2008 shut down an aging gas graphite reactor which had produced enough plutonium for possibly six to eight small bombs.

But in April 2009 it angrily quit the six-nation disarmament talks and staged a second atomic weapons test a month later. In September last year it announced it had reached the final stage of enriching uranium.

In recent months, Pyongyang has made several conditional willingness to return to the talks but asserts its right to be treated as a nuclear state—something which Washington, Seoul and Tokyo refuse to countenance.

David Albright, president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, estimated that 2,000 centrifuges could—if reconfigured—yield about 20 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium a year, enough for one weapon.

In unedited comments to AFP he said that the North, by advertising its plant to Hecker, may be trying to seek a "peaceful (or exemption)" for its enrichment program or to create a new bargaining chip in negotiations.

Alternatively, it could be hoping to sow discord among nuclear negotiating partners, "distracting attention from a secret parallel centrifuge program, or running an elegant cheap the exact status of its nuclear weapons programs."

Separately, called the announcement the latest in a series of "provocative moves" by North Korea.

"That being said, this is not a crisis," he said after talks in Seoul with Foreign Minister Kim Sung-Hwan. AFP

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Nickel Asia marks strong market debut /B2
■ GMA makes big push into growing OFW market /B6

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

EPSON

BSP bucks cut in reserve requirement

Agency says rate on special deposit accounts to stay

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has thumbed down proposals to reduce interest rates and cut the reserve requirement, saying such moves would not necessarily push banks to lend more.

The BSP insisted urged banks to ease their credit requirements, especially for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), stressing this was the best way to boost demand for loans and spur lending.

"Banks are not lending as much not because interest rates are high, interest rates are at historic lows, in fact. They are not lending because there is not enough demand for loans," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

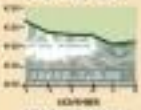
He said many SMEs found the credit requirements of banks too stringent.

On the 1.9-percent reserve requirement

BSP, B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 22, 2010
43.950



STOCK MARKET
Nov. 22, 2010
▼ 16.71

Stocks end lower

STOCKS ENDED marginally lower yesterday as the market consolidated after last week's bounce.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index was down 16.71 points or about 0.4 percent to 4,186.86.

The decline was led by the holding firm counter, which fell 1.43 percent. Only the financial counter bucked the day's downturn, buoyed by gains in Metrobank and Banco de Oro.

Value turnover amounted to P7.6 billion. There were 47 stocks that gained against 86 that declined and 36 that were unchanged.

Foreign investors remained cautious, maintaining their positions after the main index hit historic highs in previous weeks prior to a recent correction. There was P456 million in net foreign selling at the broad market yesterday.

The country's biggest nickel mining firm Nickel Asia Corp. was the day's most actively traded. Its share price rising 12 percent to P16.80 from an initial public offering price of P15. *(See story on Page B2.)*

Jessica C. Dumlao

Gov't urged to review Bohol airport project

THE AQUINO administration's airport plan to build an international airport in Panglao, Bohol, has met opposition from professionals who claim that such a project is economically and ecologically unwise.

The critics have urged concerned officials of the government to abandon the project, which is one of the key priorities under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program.

The government is seeking investors to establish an airport in Panglao as a way to boost tourism and develop businesses in the area.

However, critics said the place could not accommodate an airport, since no international one that would host more aircraft and passengers.

"The island is constructed of soft limestone with several sinkholes or cavities not visible to the naked eye (there are allegedly caves underground). There's a risk that the runway and buildings would collapse due to the sinkholes," said UP Economics Professor Emeritus Benito, ecological studies on the area.

This was contained in a letter Perrin sent to Transportation and Communications Secretary Jose Ile Jesus, Tourism Secretary Ramon Paterno and the rest of the economic team.

Perrin, who wrote the letter also on behalf of ecologists and concerned citizens of Bohol, said it did not make economic sense to spend for an international airport in Bohol given that there was the Mactan Airport nearby.

He said it would be better to spend funds to upgrade the Mactan International Airport to serve not only Cebu but the surrounding islands as well.

"To facilitate the transfer of tourists from Mactan to Bohol, why not build a wharf near the MIA, where the tourists could directly board their ferryboats such that the cruise to Bohol could ultimately be part of the tour," Perrin said.

Michelle V. Remo

Our deepest gratitude to Kraft Foods, Tableresse, Kraft Eden, Kraft Cheez Whiz, Kenya Knorr, Glaxosmithkline, and Boston, who trusted us to weave their brand's future through social marketing campaigns that do good for the community, create influential ideas, and push boundaries.

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Nickel Asia marks strong market debut

At end of trading day, firm's capitalization reaches P22B

By Doris C. Dumlao

NICKEL ASIA Corp., the country's largest nickel miner, yesterday marked its market debut with a 7.8 percent rise in share prices to P16.50 as the company's growth story continued to win over investors.

NAC, listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange under the ticker "NIKL," sold about 59.6 billion worth of shares, equivalent to 26 percent of its outstanding common stock, through an initial public offering, setting a new milestone to become the largest mining IPO deal in the country.

The company sold 3844.1 million of its 1.56 billion common shares at an IPO price of P13 a share. The underwriters were given an option to purchase additional 45.07 million shares to cover the over-subscription.

"Significant investor interest both in the international and domestic markets is a true testimonial to Nickel Asia's growth story," said NAC president and chief executive officer Gerard Brimo.

On its inaugural trade, NAC's share price opened at P16 and hit an intra-day high of P19.40 before closing at P16.50. It was the day's most actively traded company at the stock market, with about 77.3 million shares traded at an average of P17.93 a share for a total value turnover of P1.37 billion, or about 17 percent of total investment for the day.

At the end of trading day the company's market capitalization reached P22 billion.

NAC is one of the world's largest supplier of laterite nickel ore until the largest nickel mining firm in the Philippines, accounting for over half of the country's nickel ore exports in 2009.

A portion of the IPO proceeds, estimated at around P55 million, will be used to fund the company's contribution to a new nickel processing plant, the P1.43-billion Taganito HPAL (high pressure acid leach) facility.

NAC has a 32.5-percent stake in the facility, which is scheduled to start operating in August 2013. In its first full year of operations, the facility is expected to produce 20,000 tons of contained nickel, 95 percent of which will be shipped to Japan.

Based on analysts' forecasts, nickel prices may rise to $13.2 per pound next year and up to $13.9 per pound in 2013. World ore is currently trading at about $9.8 per pound at the London Metal Exchange.

The biggest shareholders of the mining firm, whose shares are under lock-up after the IPO, are Manuel Zamora (21.40 percent), Bonifacio Metal Mining Co. (Gold, 7.68.0) percent), Philippine Nickel Industries (13.852 percent), and Lafayette Mining (13.82 percent).

From page B1

Market Rider

market situation.

The standard definition as to what constitutes a bull market is that stock prices are "generally rising in a trend across a broad front," happening for an "extended period of time."

The advance of said prices must also result in the general appreciation in value of more than 20 percent.

Such movement and trend should as exist "for more than a year, and may run for several years."

A bull market is said to further exist, "so long as such successive rally reaches a higher level than the one before it, and such successive reaction stops at a higher level than the previous reaction."

Current market typification

Also, a bull market is known to have three phases.

"The first phase is known as 'accumulation' and occurs when business conditions are still poor and the public is generally discouraged with the stock market. The second phase is usually marked by a fairly steady increase in activity as business conditions and corporate earnings begin to improve. The third phase is characterized by highly publicized 'good news.' Price gains are often spectacular and the public becomes heavily involved."

The aforementioned success of the CES IPO and its attendant strong performance after listing confirmed that the market is on bull territory. It has likewise sent a signal that the capitalization market has started to become a viable source for corporate financing.

Looking back, it is quite clear that we have a bull market in progress. We did not just materialize recently, but has been going on since last year.

As for the advance of prices, it has not been confined to a limited front of the market. They are found to have occurred along a broad range namely, power, mining, banking and property sectors.

And finally, the recent performance of said stocks, their price-centime to base the potential to go up higher.

Bottom line spin

But the sure signs of a bull run are described by these colorful phrases: "Great optimism prevails, the public is heavily involved and, above all, price gains become incredibly spectacular."

Considering these phrases, it looks like the market is not yet on a bull run. But based on the past market experience of the recent CES IPO, the stock market, due to developing interest as good source for primary financing of corporate activities, in addition to being an actively liquid secondary market.

Benefiting from this new nature and character of the market are the new initial public offerings lined up following CES.

In the days ahead, the developing nature and character of the market will be more clearly defined. It may possibly turn out to be a bull run.

You may reach the Market Rider at mamoderi@inquirer.com.ph or at the_ammar@yahoo.com

BOI approves P6.8-M project expansion

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BOARD of Investments has given its nod to the registration of Tanduay Sugar (Philippines) Inc.'s P6.8-million expansion of its molasses manufacturing plant in Tagaytay City.

The registration with the BOI entitles the Japanese firm's molasses line to fixed and non-fixed perks, including an income tax holiday.

According to BOI data, the company produces concentrates and industrial molasses, rum and labels for export to Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

The company's existing equipment and facilities allow it to manufacture 46.3 million pieces a year of various kinds of containers and labels. Its product line includes concentrates and molasses derivatives and pesado and lasa, security and tamper-resistant labels, barcode labels and other signs related to safety precautions and products.

Premium specifications depend on customer requirements.

All of the company's products are manufactured using a three-color printing machine, just right for most client requirements but already falling short of orders for clients' demands.

Tanduay Sugar said the expansion was prompted by client demand for more sophisticated designs, designs and colors, as well as the need to produce more output to meet increasing product demand.

The company noted that production had already reached its peak, at 81 percent of total registered capacity, over the past two years.

Upon completion of expansion activities in January, production capacity would increase by 37 percent. The company would also hire 11 additional employees.

The company is 70 percent owned by Japanese firm JK Printing Industry Co. Ltd. Almost all of the remaining stake, of 21 percent, is held by Tarsian Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

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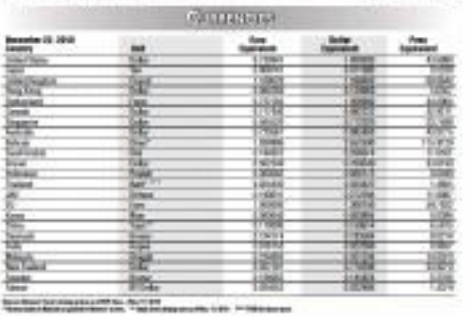

BSP bucks cut in reserve requirement

From page B1

ment, which is the proportion of deposit liabilities of banks that must be kept with the central bank as reserve. BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said monetary authorities did not find it prudent to reduce it at the moment.

He described the reserve requirement as a "very potent measure" that could drastically reverse the liquidity situation if implemented.

While the inflation environment was still benign, Tetangco said reducing the reserve requirement would lead to a sharp increase in liquidity that could eventually be inflationary. He noted that although prices were rising moderately at the moment, there were risks in the horizon that could lead to beyond-ceiling inflation levels if the reserve requirement would be tweaked unjudiciously.

The BSP preferred to be conservative, said the central bank chief.

The central bank has been urged to reduce the 4 percent interest rate it pays banks for their deposits placed in the special deposit account (SDA) facility and the overnight borrowing facility.

Some officials from the Bureau of the Treasury as well as economists from the private sector said the BSP should reduce the rates, which they said was very attractive for banks to park their funds with the central bank than lend to the public.

The chance for the rate reduction grew following the sharp decline in treasury bill rates.

Tetangco said, however, that the BSP would not reduce its rates just because the gap between the BSP and treasury bill rates was widening.

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Philippine Economic Zone Authority

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that SONOKA AUTOPARTS PHILIPPINES, INC. (SAPI), will open shop at the Manila One Tower Complex (1082-1083) Tel. Mariano Ponce Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines, for the purpose of engaging in the business of manufacturing, assembling, trading, buying and selling, importing and exporting, and otherwise dealing in all kinds of automotive parts and components, and all activities incidental thereto.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA Manila Operations Center a written and verified protest within fifteen (15) days from the date of first publication.

Please direct your protest, objections/comments to the Zone Operations Department (ZOD) Tel. No. 951-2401 local 4115, 4116, 951-2402 or e-mail address: zod@peza.gov.ph.

LORELI B. DELIMA
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Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late [illegible] is undergoing extra-judicial settlement. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to file the same within thirty (30) days from the last publication hereof. After said period, no claims will be entertained.

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Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. A20
Department of Labor and Employment -ROI A2
Supreme Court of the Philippines..... A2

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AFPMBAI is now accepting proposal through its Investment Board for the outright purchase or development through joint venture of its property described below:

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(Sgd) BGEN. RICARDO C. MORALES AFP (RET)
Chairman, Investment Board

OBITUARIES

"Jesus, I am in you, today you and I'll with me in Paradise." Lk 23:43

Benigna "Nene" R. Batac, MD

UST Medicine 1972

Nov. 1, 1948 – Nov. 21, 2010

Beloved wife of **Fr.Dr Victor G. Batac, PNP (Ret.)**, was brought by God to His eternal embrace on the solemnity of Christ the King and Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 21st of November 2010, at the age of 62.

Her children: **Thesis, Chaos and Raffy, Charmaine**, and Chiara
Parents: **Francisco and Asterio**
Siblings: **Lady** and **Dan, Betty** and **Norman, Francis** and **Esther, Tony** and **Adelle, Robert** and **Gigi, Conrado, Lourane** and **Ligi, & Raymund** and **Evelyn,**
relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1 of the Mausoleum and Crematory of The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Friday, November 26, 2010 after the 9:00 am Mass at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

ANGELA T. FAYLONA

widow of Kaulayao

Our dearest Mama Ling

Peacefully joined her Creator on 21 November 2010 at the age of 85.

Her children Romy and Cookie, Dony and Tina, Hector and Doris, Lou and Idoy, grandchildren Rylo and Lisa, Fr. Joey, Chesley and Cha, Paulo, Donna and Andrew, Babe and Rob, Camella, Ronn, Erica, Raffy and Luzy, Carlo, great grandchildren Andie, Marren, Justin, Niko, Lucas, sisters Daring, Benning, Rosario, Nenita, Elida, in-laws Benjamin, Amor and Red, Nelly, Jay, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Hearts of Jesus & Mary, West Triangle, Quezon City. Cremation will be on Friday, 26 November after the 1:00 pm mass at Sta. Rita de Cascia Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Death Notice

ARMANDO REQUEZ

Rip on the age of 62

His body lies at [illegible]. Interment will be [illegible]

MARL, nice to end up in that tri, we will see... Love you and we will always remember...

CELIA CALUAG GARCIA

Her husband **VIRGIL**; children **VINCE** (+), **VERGY & CHUCHIE, HANS & SUZANNE, GINGER & MARLON**; grandchildren **SARAH, CHESSA, FRANCES, ALEX, JOSHUA, MATTHEW, BABY ADAM** and the rest of the family would like to thank those who prayed for her eternal happiness to Heaven.

Her body lies in Arlington Memorial Chapels, Solace 1 Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 25, 2010 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Republic of the Philippines

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE VOS APPLICATION FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE INCREMENTAL COSTS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY-DENOMINATED LOANS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS UNDER THE INCREMENTAL CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENT (ICERA) CLAIM, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2014-018 RC

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) AND POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),

Applicants.

x ---------- x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Before us is the verified joint Motion dated 14 January 2014 filed by the National Power Corporation (NPC) and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) for an application for recovery of the Incremental Costs of Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Fluctuations under the Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (ICERA) Clause, with prayer for provisional authority.

In the said application (NPC and PSALM collectively, among others, the):

1. Under Section 43 (b) of the EPIRA (the "Act"), ERC has the authority to set electric power or fuel to electric cooperatives, private distribution utilities, government-owned distribution utilities or local government units which have not yet transferred or opted to transfer its distribution system. Under Section 47 (c) of the Act, the ERC is mandated to establish a methodology that will ensure the recovery of the generation costs of the National Power Corporation-Strategic Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) and the Independent Power Producers' (IPP) contracts of PSALM;
2. NPC is thus the proper application to it capacity as the implementing agency for the unbundled generation rates as stated in the Orders of the Commission dated 26 December 2012 (NPC-SPUG) and 30 May 2013 (NPC-IPP) in ERC Case Nos. 2012-067 MC, entitled *In the Matter of the Application for the Approval of the Unbundled Generation Rates of the National Power Corporation-Strategic Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG)*, and 2012-068 MC, entitled *In the Matter of the Application for the Approval of the Unbundled Generation Rates of the National Power Corporation-Independent Power Producers (NPC-IPP)*, respectively. PSALM is the proper applicant by the virtue of Section 49 of the Act, Section 2 of Executive Order No. 30 dated 10 December 2001, Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9136 otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), and the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) promulgated thereunder, as the entity mandated to manage the orderly sale, disposition, and privatization of the generating assets, IPPT contracts in Section 47 of the EPIRA;
3. In the Order dated February 24, 2003, the Commission issued and adopted the Implementing Rules for the Recovery of the Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (ICERA) amounting among others, the targeted reimbursement for the approved portion of the deferred incremental costs caused by foreign currency-denominated loans and exchange rate fluctuations;
4. The instant application arising from the Motion dated 14 January 2014 is in full compliance with the Rules and Regulations (RR), as amended, of R.A. No. 9136 dated July 8, 2001;
5. The instant application comes this sitting period from July 2008 to December 2008. Applicants have duly complied with the ICERA's monthly reporting requirements, a report that contained the estimated deferred foreign exchange differential, as evidenced by the Certification signed by the Chief Accountant and duly witnessed by the Commission;
6. They proposed to recover/refund the Deferred Foreign Exchange Adjustments (DFEA), corresponding to additional costs or savings from foreign exchange fluctuations in the collection of Feed-in-Tariff Allowance (FIT-All) Fund, Universal Charge for Environmental Assets (UCME) and Universal Charge for Missionary Electrification (UCME), and pertaining to the difference between actual and allowable Capacity and Infrastructure Fees for Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) plants and for their actual income under the load generation charge, as well as the corresponding carrying charges for the billing period July 2008 to December 2008 for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids;
7. Pursuant to the Commission's Order dated November 22, 2005 (approval of the CERA/DAA), the proponent (the CERA/DAA charge is calculated on a per unit basis);
8. On February 16, 2006 and March 23, 2006, the Commission issued an Order granting NPC/PSALM provisional authority (PA) to implement their respective generation charges in **PSALM-MAR 2006-001 RC** for Luzon, **PSALM-VISAYAS 2006-001 RC** for the Visayas grid, and **PSALM-MINDANAO 2006-001 RC** for the Mindanao grid. The PA authorized PSALM to collect the generation charges for the billing months of January 2006 to December 2006 and NPC-SPUG for the billing months of March 2006;
9. Based on the computations of the new revenue requirement and energy sales for the February 16, 2006 Order, the load level rates for capacity fees were reduced, which then authorized the Petitioner in the ERA computations for Luzon and Mindanao grids;
10. As mentioned in the Motion for the ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC filed on 17 March 2006, and duly incorporated with the 60 appendices in the supplemental petition, NPC's application for PSALM to collect the said sources from Luzon and Mindanao and the IMPT-SPUG charge at PHP0.0042/kWh under ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC, which the Commission granted in its Order dated 30 May 2006;
11. For Energy Fees collected operating expenses, the ERA charge was computed on the basis of the Commission's one (1) GST-equated average Energy Fee per customer rate, considering that the GST-equated energy charge application should be updated last year 2007;
12. In view of the foregoing, they need to have the energy sales data of **PSALM-MAR** for the Luzon grid and **PSALM-MIN** for the Visayas and Mindanao grids, which the Commission has already submitted;
13. The calculation for the actual collection of Capacity and Infrastructure Fees for Build-Operate-Transfer Power Plant and San Roque Multi-purpose Project were engaged by PSALM/NPC as follows:

   (1.) Subic Hydro Electric Power Plant

   > The capacity fee was calculated based on the Commission's decision in ERC Case No. 2006-079 dated August 31, 2006, which provides that only a portion of the PHP0.0042/kWh - the rate recommended by NPC in the application filed on 28 March 2006 in ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC - shall be part of the energy charge and that the unallowed allowable cost under the Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM).
   >
   > It should be noted that the capacity fee component of Subic in the provisionally approved load generation charge under ERC Case No. 2006-079 RC is PHP0.0000/kWh. Any amount in excess of the PHP0.0000/kWh (for the 41.8 MW load) was accounted under the GRAM.

   (2.) San Roque Multipurpose Project

   > The capacity fee for San Roque was calculated based on ERC Case No. 2010-076 RC which pegged the Luzon's unified power rate of Php4.7788/kWh as the effective rate of the Luzon block in the Commission's order. Still within the application of Section 6 rules of the GRAM, the Commission allowed the recovery of the PHP0.0042/kWh, which was also recommended by NPC in capacity fee for the San Roque Power Plant in ERC Case No. 2006-010, used as part of the energy charge per kWh and considered as allowable cost under the GRAM.

14. The instant application likewise involves the revised estimates of the allowable separate sales of Angat-Luzon Hydro, Luzon's and Mindanao's load IPP-SPUGs, in view of the Commission's Decision in ERC Case No. 2007-138 dated 04th November 17, 2008 and ERC Case No. 2011-149 dated August 1, 2008, respectively;
15. On the sales data of the kWh for capacity fees for the load period July 2008 to December 2008 and covering the billing period of May 2009 to August 2009, the Motion refers to the differential between the allowable capacity fees and the actually recovered through the load generation rates per ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC;
16. The instant application does not operate as an amended application for the previous CERA applications, considering that the same are still pending resolution by the Commission;
17. Considering the foregoing, and pursuant to all of the relevant Decisions and Orders issued by the Commission, they calculated total deferred costs for recovery under the instant application, consisting of deferred debt service, DFEA and capacity fees for NPC plants, and the corresponding discounting amounts for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids covering the said period from July 2008 to December 2008 (viz): Table 1 includes the summary of the total deferred FOREX costs per Petitioner's cost-out below:

Total Deferred FOREX Costs, in Php'

Grid	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
TOTAL SAD	3,864,311,945	131,855,911	184,164,035

18. They seek the Commission's approval for the recovery/refund of the above-stated total current deferred FOREX costs for the load period July 2008 to December 2008, through the imposition of the following proposed ERA charges:

Proposed PHP/kWh ERA Charge, PHP/kWh

Grid	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
ERA/kWh	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

19. In accordance with ERC Resolution No. 16, Series of 2009, the rates stated in Table 2 will be for the load month of December and the rates in prior months of the deferred period will be calculated using the same principle. If the generation rate corresponding to the billing month is within the allowable ERA rate, the ERA rate will be zero;
20. They likewise seek the approval of the Commission to recover the above-stated deferred costs over the following recovery periods:

Proposed Period (No. of Months)

Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
2	2	2

21. As mentioned under the Implementing Rules of the ICERA, they defined the carrying charge interest rates, as shown in Table 3 below:

Allowable Carrying Charge Interest Rates

Billing Period	Prevailing 91-day T-Bill Rate, %	Applied Interest Allowance, %	Allowable Rate
July	3.7724%	3.00%	7.7724%
August	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%
September	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%
October	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%
November	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%
December	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%

1. Source: Bloomberg Financial Website
2. Annualized rate for the ICERA Implementing Rules

22. They propose ICERA-DAA to be used, especially as it allows the recovery of deferred costs consistent with the principles of a fair and competitive electricity market and consistent under R.A. No. 9136;
23. They pray for the issuance of a provisional authority in accordance with the Implementing Rules of the ICERA, as follows:

   a. ERA rate for the applicable period
   b. The associated Reconciliation Account for those rate ICERA for Luzon and Mindanao that will be collected in the Visayas and Mindanao grids, in order to mitigate the extra burden that is collected with interest for NPC's financial standing;

24. They further pray for the same application of the ICERA applications filed before the Commission in view of the expired Final Filing rates (RAM-ICERA) and the Provisional Authority (PA) rates of the Commission in the 26 December 2012, 30 May 2013 and 30 May 2013 Orders. The said Orders approved the application for recovery of all collected and uncollected costs shall be submitted within the 6-month recovery from the provisional authority (PA) Period, or on or before March 31, 2015;
25. To date, they are implementing the 10% ICERA charge in Luzon, pending resolution of the 10% to 100% ICERA applications. For the Visayas, they are implementing the 50% ICERA charge, pending resolution of the Commission's Order dated 30 May 2013 in ERC Case No. 2012-068 MC. Applicant PSALM is filing this application in its capacity as implementer, owner and administrator of the generating assets (IPPT) pursuant to Section 47 of the EPIRA;
26. In the Order dated February 24, 2003, the Commission issued and adopted the Implementing Rules for the Recovery of the Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (ICERA) amounting among others, the targeted reimbursement for the approved portion of the deferred incremental costs caused by foreign currency-denominated loans and exchange rate fluctuations;
27. The instant application arising from the Motion dated 14 January 2014 is in full compliance with the Rules and Regulations (RR), as amended, of R.A. No. 9136 dated July 8, 2001;
28. They specifying their instant application pursuant to the Rules for the Automatic Cost Recovery Mechanism approved (and adopted by the Commission) under Resolution No. 16, Series of 2009, particularly on the Feed-in-Tariff Allowance (FIT-All) Fund, Universal Charge for Environmental Assets (UCME) and Universal Charge for Missionary Electrification (UCME) and/or additional which one hundred seventy (170) days from when effected as the Rules, or on or before June 27, 2010;
29. The instant application covers the last period from January 2010 to April 2010. They have fully complied with the ICERA's monthly reporting requirements, a report that contained the estimated deferred foreign exchange differential, as evidenced by the Certification signed by the Chief Accountant and duly witnessed by the Commission;
30. They propose to recover/refund via the Deferred Foreign Exchange Adjustments (DFEA), corresponding to additional costs or savings from foreign exchange fluctuations in the collection of Feed-in-Tariff Allowance (FIT-All) Fund, Universal Charge for Environmental Assets (UCME) and Universal Charge for Missionary Electrification (UCME), and pertaining to the difference between actual and allowable Capacity and Infrastructure Fees for Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) plants and for their actual income under the load generation charge, as well as the corresponding carrying charges for the billing period January 2010 to April 2010 for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids;
31. Pursuant to the Commission's Order dated November 22, 2005 (approval of the CERA/DAA), the proponent (the CERA/DAA charge is calculated on a per unit basis);
32. On February 16, 2006 and March 23, 2006, the Commission issued an Order granting NPC/PSALM provisional authority (PA) to implement their respective generation charges in **PSALM-MAR 2006-001 RC** for Luzon, **PSALM-VISAYAS 2006-001 RC** for the Visayas grid, and **PSALM-MINDANAO 2006-001 RC** for the Mindanao grid. The PA authorized PSALM to collect the generation charges for the billing months of January 2006 to December 2006 and NPC-SPUG for the billing months of March 2006;
33. Based on the computations of the new revenue requirement and energy sales for the February 16, 2006 Order, the load level rates for capacity fees were reduced, which then authorized the Petitioner in the ERA computations for Luzon and Mindanao grids;
34. As mentioned in the Motion for the ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC filed on 17 March 2006, and duly incorporated with the 60 appendices in the supplemental petition, NPC's application for PSALM to collect the said sources from Luzon and Mindanao and the IMPT-SPUG charge at PHP0.0042/kWh under ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC, which the Commission granted in its Order dated 30 May 2006;
35. For Energy Fees collected operating expenses, the ERA charge was computed on the basis of the Commission's one (1) GST-equated average Energy Fee per customer rate, considering that the GST-equated energy charge application should be updated last year 2007;
36. In view of the foregoing, they need to have the energy sales data of **PSALM-MAR** for the Luzon grid and **PSALM-MIN** for the Visayas and Mindanao grids, which the Commission has already submitted;
37. The calculation for the actual collection of Capacity and Infrastructure Fees for Build-Operate-Transfer Power Plant and San Roque Multi-purpose Project were engaged by PSALM/NPC as follows:

   (1.) Subic Hydro Electric Power Plant

   > The capacity fee was calculated based on the Commission's decision in ERC Case No. 2006-079 dated August 31, 2006, which provides that only a portion of the PHP0.0042/kWh - the rate recommended by NPC in the application filed on 28 March 2006 in ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC - shall be part of the energy charge and that the unallowed allowable cost under the Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM).
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   (2.) San Roque Multipurpose Project

   > The capacity fee for San Roque was calculated based on ERC Case No. 2010-076 RC which pegged the Luzon's unified power rate of Php4.7788/kWh as the effective rate of the Luzon block in the Commission's order. Still within the application of Section 6 rules of the GRAM, the Commission allowed the recovery of the PHP0.0042/kWh, which was also recommended by NPC in capacity fee for the San Roque Power Plant in ERC Case No. 2006-010, used as part of the energy charge per kWh and considered as allowable cost under the GRAM.

38. The instant application likewise involves the revised estimates of the allowable separate sales of Angat-Luzon Hydro, Luzon's and Mindanao's load IPP-SPUGs, in view of the Commission's Decision in ERC Case No. 2007-138 dated 04th November 17, 2008 and ERC Case No. 2011-149 dated August 1, 2008, respectively;
39. On the sales data of the kWh for capacity fees for the load period July 2008 to December 2008 and covering the billing period of May 2009 to August 2009, the Motion refers to the differential between the allowable capacity fees and the actually recovered through the load generation rates per ERC Case No. 2006-010 RC;
40. The instant application does not operate as an amended application for the previous CERA applications, considering that the same are still pending resolution by the Commission;
41. Considering the foregoing, and pursuant to all of the relevant Decisions and Orders issued by the Commission, they calculated total deferred costs for recovery under the instant application, consisting of deferred debt service, DFEA and capacity fees for NPC plants, and the corresponding discounting amounts for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids covering the said period from July 2008 to December 2008 (viz): Table 1 includes the summary of the total deferred FOREX costs per Petitioner's cost-out below:

Total Deferred FOREX Costs, in Peso's

Grid	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
TOTAL SAD	3,864,311,945	131,855,911	184,164,035

42. They seek the Commission's approval for the recovery/refund of the above-stated total current deferred FOREX costs for the load period July 2008 to December 2008, through the imposition of the following proposed ERA charges:

Proposed PHP/kWh ERA Charge, PHP/kWh

Grid	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
ERA/kWh	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

43. In accordance with ERC Resolution No. 16, Series of 2009, the rates stated in Table 2 will be for the load month of December and the rates in prior months of the deferred period will be calculated using the same principle. If the generation rate corresponding to the billing month is within the allowable ERA rate, the ERA rate will be zero;
44. They likewise seek the approval of the Commission to recover the above-stated deferred costs over the following recovery periods:

Proposed Period (No. of Months)

Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
2	2	2

45. As mentioned under the Implementing Rules of the ICERA, they defined the carrying charge interest rates, as shown in the table below:

Allowable Carrying Charge Interest Rates

Billing Period	Prevailing 91-day T-Bill Rate, %	Applied Interest Allowance, %	Allowable Rate
January 2010	3.7724%	3.00%	7.7724%
February 2010	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%
March 2010	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%
April 2010	0.0000%	3.00%	3.0000%

1. Source: Bloomberg Financial Website
2. Annualized rate for the ICERA Implementing Rules

46. The proposed ICERA-DAA to be used, especially as it allows the recovery of deferred costs consistent with the principles of a fair and competitive electricity market and consistent under R.A. No. 9136;
47. They pray for the issuance of a provisional authority in accordance with the Implementing Rules of the ICERA, as follows:

   a. ERA rate for the applicable period
   b. The associated Reconciliation Account for those rate ICERA for Luzon and Mindanao that will be collected in the Visayas and Mindanao grids, in order to mitigate the extra burden that is collected with interest for NPC's financial standing;

48. To date, they are implementing the 10% ICERA charge in Luzon, pending resolution of the 10% to 100% ICERA applications. For the Visayas, they are implementing the 50% ICERA charge, pending resolution of the Commission's Order dated 30 May 2013 in ERC Case No. 2012-068 MC. Applicant PSALM is filing this application in its capacity as implementer, owner and administrator of the generating assets (IPPT) pursuant to Section 47 of the EPIRA;
49. They further pray for the Commission take consistent with ERC Resolutions, ERA for separate sales transactions filed in the Provisions of Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the EPIRA, as amended, and consistent with the Rules for Contracting by Distribution Utilities and Power Supply Agreements Involving Captive Customers

BUSINESS

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Network brings GMA Life TV to Canada, UK

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BROADCAST GIANT GMA Network Inc. is eyeing a bigger share of the overseas Filipino workers (OFW) market with the recent launch of one of its international channels to two major territories abroad.

In a statement, the company announced plans to bring GMA Life TV, the company's second international channel, to two other American states with large concentrations of OFWs before the year ends.

"After complementing the programming of GMA's flagship international channel GMA Pinoy TV, GMA Life TV features top notch news and public affairs, entertainment, and lifestyle programs catered for Pinoys all over the world," the company said in a statement.

Two launches—both within the month's first week...took place this November. On Nov. 4, GMA Life TV was launched in Canada via MTS Allstream. Meanwhile, shares GMA Life TV programs began airing in the United Kingdom since Nov. 7 via Sky Europe IPTV. This was made possible by Orbit Showtime Network in partnership with Infinity IPTV, the company said.

"Just before the year ends, GMA Life TV will continue to spice up the lives of Filipinos in the United States as it conquers New York and Illinois," the statement read.

The company said GMA Life TV will soon air with the help of Time Warner in New York and Comcast in Chicago on Dec. 1 and 16, respectively. It will also be launched in Houston, Texas, by early next year via Comcast.

GMA Life TV had about 125,000 subscribers at the end of the third quarter, the network said.

The number of subscribers began to accelerate dramatically in the channel was launched during the early part of this year in other areas such as Florida (via Brighthouse Tampa), Texas (via SuVisión), Hong Kong (via PCCW) and Central California (via Comcast).

"The increase of GMA Life TV subscribers can be attributed to the channel's superior programming and the way it effectively responds to the under-served content needs of our viewers," vice president and GMA International operations head Joseph Francia said.

Changing nature of the market

IS THE market on a bull run?

When asked this question recently, I inordinately felt an unnerving confusion.

Its stock prices have been on the advance since February. Their pace picked up, too, in September, practically galloping upwards for the next two months.

This upward pace of stock prices was only broken by the meteoric selloff that started two weeks ago.

Still, trading volumes and value of transactions remain strong and big, and they continue to show further signs of getting even stronger and bigger.

So, are we on a bull run?

MARKET RIDER

Desi Sonnera

More important point

Actually, there is no important point that I would like to present about the foregoing questions, aware than to provide a full definition and/or exhaustive explanation on what a bull run is or to provide a convincing answer as to whether we are embarking a bull run.

We should take a closer look at the changing natures of the market as observed from the recent successful result of the initial public offering (IPO) of Cebu Air Inc. (CEB), and try to understand its implication on the current

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LIFESTYLE Wellness

Running for public school teachers—in the New York marathon

I'm so glad my former classmate Tinggay didn't make me wear the Assumption skirt for the remainder of my run!

By Nina Lopez-Bautista
Contributor

NEVER in my wildest dreams did I think I would run a marathon—and yet here I was, in New York, "where the world comes to run"—running 42k for the first time ever in my life.

My first marathon was in no less than the 2010 ING New York City Marathon, considered the biggest and most fun marathon in the world. And I was running it with my son Ben, my sister Bea, her husband Eric, and 20 other Filipinos who, via Ice Knowledge Channel and 45,000 other runners from all over the world.

Thank you, ING, for the opportunity and the experience.

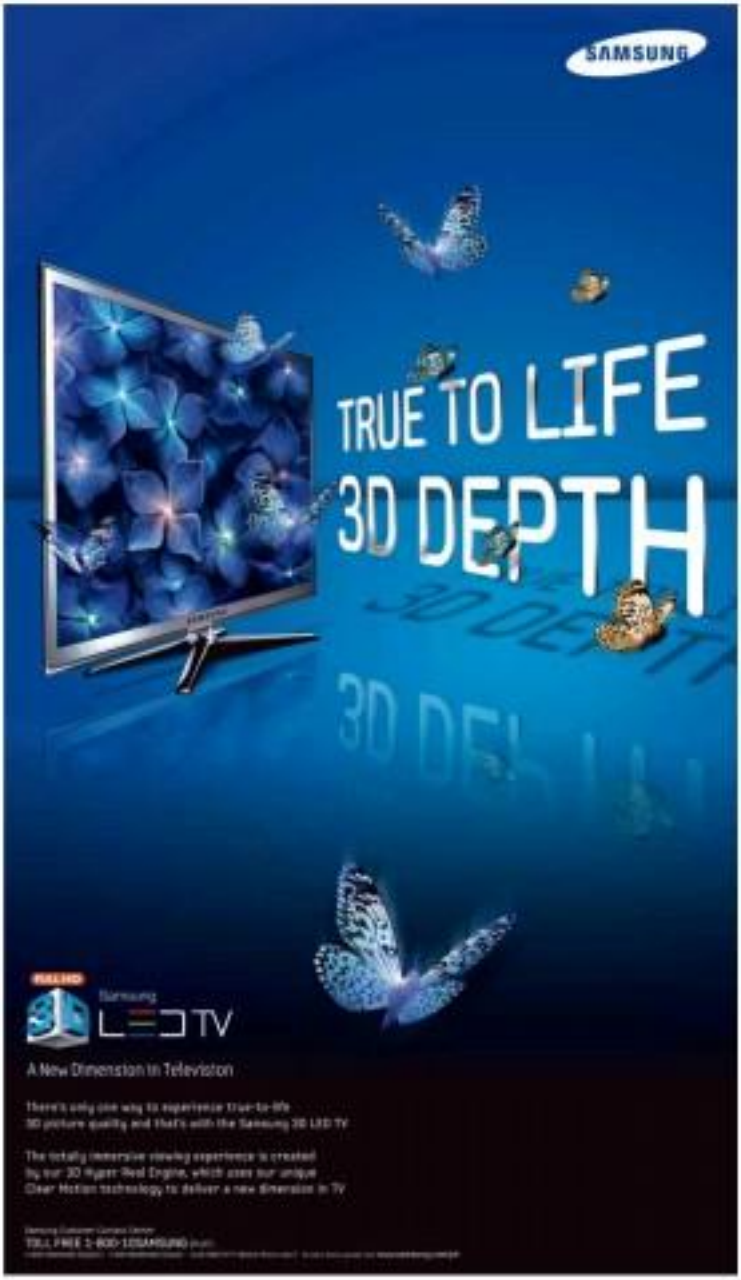
I ran the race not to win, but to finish. That was what I kept telling myself during my almost six-and-a-half hours of running and walking the streets of New York City.

I was especially careful as I had multiple injuries in the month leading to the marathon and, thus, I believed, I was (semi-) fcientifically trained.

Wonderment

And so I did. I enjoyed myself, running and walking. I enjoyed myself knowing that among the runners were my family and friends, many other Filipinos, and a marathoner priest who blessed us just the day before at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

RUNNING C2



GARFIELD

A-LIFYA

PLAGAS BABOY

ERMMM!! LAHAPIN NGAYON NA!! AMPF...MGA MGA UTUSAN NI LUPPO!
NGUNGUNGUN

Running for public school teachers—in the New York marathon

From page C1

I enjoyed being amazed at the number of people who lined the streets on that cold (7°C) Marathon Sunday. I was filled with wonderment as I traversed all five boroughs for the first time in June—first on Island, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Bronx and Manhattan again—and saw the sites from a different perspective. I especially liked the view from the five bridges!

I enjoyed taking water and Gatorade from volunteers in alternate stations, and taking Gelle one shot and Gu gel alternately every 3 miles. And last of all, looking for Filipino supporters waving Philippine flags and the Assumption flag.

On 1st and 86th, there was a medical tent organized by the New York Council Governor Cecilia Rehuerg, with Nurse Joy and Dr. Antonio directing the Filipino runners with their flags and banners. Nurse Joy even called my mobile during the run, thinking on my while I was on top of the Queensboro bridge.

And yes, my classmate, Tuggay, who works at the UN, was wearing a little Philippine flag and the Assumption shirt on 1st and 50th. When she saw me, she ran into the runner, wearing through other runners, and hugged me, talking faster than I could see!

I was so happy to see her, too. Her husband took a couple of pictures of us, and then she gave me the little Philippine flag and sent me off. I'm so glad she didn't make me wear the Assumption shirt for the remainder of my run! I did not let go of that flag, and I proudly waved it as I crossed the finish line.

PROUD: Insider of the ING New York City Marathon

THE NEW York City Marathon runners cross like an army of ants on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Disabled runners

A mile or two after that, I realized that many of those around me were not running but walking—and some of them had people around them with shirts that said, "CANE." I realized I was among the disabled and other non "runners," many of whom, like me, were running for a cause.

It was in this group that I spotted and hailed a pioneer with a visually handicapped runs from Palestine. Although I had never met him, we are both connected to the Synergon Institute—he, a Synergon Asia World Social Innovator and I, a member of Synergon Global Wisdom Inspirer Circle.

I felt good that I was in this group of runners, as I myself was running for the Knowledge Channel and Philippine education. Each kilometer finished would help raise rupees vouchers into public school classrooms around the country.

Two morning with others, for others. Well-paced, but easily up until the 35km. I heard a man's voice over a loudspeaker name few hundred meters behind me saying, "That is the police car. This is the end of the line of the NYC marathon." Then I ran. I ran and ran.

I didn't stop until I crossed the finish line. I was so elated to get "inside." I did not want to take a bus to the finish line. I did not want to see the results with my name that said DNF (did not finish).

I did not want to let my son down as he waited for me at the finish line. I did not want my daughter to be sad for me. I did not want to disappoint all of those who were praying for me and supporting Knowledge Channel.

Thank you to all of you. You all kept me going! Now I have an ING New York City Marathon Finisher's Medal!

During that six-and-a-half hours, I prayed for many people.

I prayed for my family, my friends and their families, the Filipino people and my country. I prayed for those running with me for Knowledge Channel, and all who continue to support us. I prayed that the Knowledge Channel and the people who are a part of it will continue to be guided, so that their one cause, the Filipino in the best possible way they can.

I did not stop thinking then for the multitude of blessings he has bestowed on me, and on all of us, especially for allowing us the opportunity to help others. I dedicated my run to Him, that I may always know and do His will.

I am so proud of my son. Even with his leg cramping halfway into the run, he managed to finish—in pain—in four hours and 33 minutes. I am proud to say that Dan is among the 99 runners featured in the New York Times to be crossed the finish line. I thank Jan Friends who went to NY to support us.

Next: Manila leg

My ING New York City Marathon experience was On New York leg of Knowledge Channel's "Kalli Natgan (KNC) Run for Knowledge."

I will continue what we started in New York by running in the Kalli Natgan 2008's Manila leg, which will also be my recovery run after New York.

We invite everyone to join us as we continue to run for others—to run for knowledge, and to run for Philippine education. Let us bring expert teachers into public school classrooms around the country through the Knowledge Channel, and help every learner be a finisher—in both educational fields.

Join us at 6 a.m. on Nov. 16 at the World Compound for the Manila leg of Kalli Natgan 2008. Run and/or walk in any of the 2k, 5k, 10k or 15k routes, and help us share the multitude of blessings with our public school students.

WITH Synergon' Asia World Social Innovator Nuruddin Arora

RUNNERS for Knowledge Eric Pono, Bea Pono, Micheline Suarez, Hannah Gan and Patrick Gan keep their bodies warm before the race.

THE AUTHOR (far right) with sister Bea Pono, her husband Eric Pono and author's son Daniel Lapuz

NURSE Joy from the medical team cheers Filipino runners.

WITH former Assumption classmate Tuggay Arnina Castillo

THE RUNNERS for Knowledge, with the Philippine Consulate General's staff, at the carbo-loading dinner held Nov. 5 at Philippine Center New York.

Special Feature

ARTHRITIS Q&A

by Perry P. Tan, M.D., FPCP, FPRA

Q: When is the right time to let a patient ride a wheel chair? My wife was diagnosed to have Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and her doctor told her to ride a wheel chair.

A: If you can delay your wife from becoming dependent on a wheel chair then do so. Riding a wheel chair is not fun. The more a patient doesn't walk the chance of walking again will diminish. The muscles will become atrophied and weak, the tendons will become contracted, and the cartilage will become poorly nourished (the cartilage gets its nourishment as we walk). If the reason for her walking is pain, there are plenty of ways to reduce her pain. If the reason is contracture or weakness, graduated physical therapy and exercise may help. For severely deformed joints, total knee replacement is the solution. Our goals in RA management are to alleviate symptoms, improve quality of life, make patients become independent, and modify disease progression. We now have new drugs called biologics that can put RA patients in remission. Monetary support, positive thinking, and a fighting spirit are added ingredients for a better life.

Dr. Perry P. Tan is currently the chairman of the Department of Medicine and head/founder of the Rayuma Klinik at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center. He is the president of Arthritis Care Foundation and former president of the Philippine Rheumatology Association. At present, he holds clinic at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center and Metropolitan Medical Center. For inquiries, text 0917 4422900.

Urban legends die hard

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime S. Licauco

I RECENTLY got a text message titled "Mystery at a Medical Center" from a well known ophthalmologist. The message read:

"ICU patients always died in the same bed on Sundays at 11 a.m., regardless of their medical condition. This started the doctors. No one could solve the mystery. Mr. Licauco and the Ateneo paranormal folks were called. They arrived armed with special photographic equipment, infrared devices and motion sensitive radar to detect any presence, so we thought a few minutes before 11 a.m., doctors and nurses nervously waited outside the room to know what the mystery was all about. Some were holding wooden crosses and prayer books to ward off evil spirits.

"When the clock struck 11, Hong Jun, a part-time Atenean janitor, entered the room, unplugged the life support system and plugged in the vacuum cleaner."

I replied to the female ophthalmologist who had sent me the text, "I didn't know that story is still being circulated around."

I explained to her that the joke first appeared on the Internet maybe five years ago in the US. It carried names of well-known American parapsychologists somebody had forwarded to me a copy of that Internet joke.

Soon it was used by compilers of a bestselling series of pamphlets on "True Philippine Ghost Stories." But they changed the name of the American hospital to Makati Medical Center and the names of the parapsychologists to somewhat Jaime Bulatao or Tony Perez and the spirit questioned myself.

I thought the story had died a natural death. But many years later, I found out it is still very much alive, this time in text jokes. I was simply amused by such stories and hope people see the obvious just.

Strangers

But urban legends apparently die hard. And some have been going on about me without my knowledge. I am usually the last to know.

For example, I bumped into a group of strangers coming out of a Greenbelt restaurant years ago. One of them recognized me and greeted: "Do you remember me?" he asked. I apologized and said, "No I'm sorry, but I don't."

He then told me he could not forget meeting me in a restaurant three months before former Sen. Nitoy Aquino came back to the Philippines. He said he told him and six other people that if Nitoy came back to the Philippines, he would be assassinated.

"I told that?" I asked incredulously.

"Yes," he emphatically replied. "There were six of us who heard you say that."

"I'm sorry," I told him. "I don't remember having said that." And then I walked away from them.

I learned from my son Julian Abram, now a businessman, that he had been told the story on two separate occasions that I once hit a baseball so hard it flew high up in the sky and was never recovered. When John told me about that, I recently laughed because I have never played baseball, not even in my dreams!

Relieved

Here's another recent example which took place only recently. I went to a medical doctor who was a practitioner of holistic medicine and Chinese acupuncture. There was a female patient in the treatment room. When we were introduced, she said she knew me; we were neighbors in same office building in Makati. She said she was then scheduled for operation for cancer and I supposedly told her not to undergo the operation because she didn't need it.

Because of my advice, she said she didn't undergo the operation. "And what happened?" I nervously asked.

"You were right!" she replied. "It turned out I didn't need the operation at all."

I was relieved but at the same time puzzled because I would never tell anyone, specially someone I hardly know, not to undergo a medical surgery. I don't remember that incident at all. But the true story was that conversation took place in that building.

Maybe that was another urban legend that has developed around my persona or character. For here is still that some people say I can read minds, tell the future, heal the sick and talk to the dead. If I could do all those things, I probably would have a long line of people waiting outside my door. I don't know how many others are having similar, but I am not aware of.

Now, the next free ESP-8 Intuitive Development seminar will be held on Nov. 27 to 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is the only scientifically based program that will open a person's third eye and enable him to perform at will about five or six psychic skills in two days' time. Interested individuals may call 353-7241 or 353-9892 for details. Visit www.jaimelicauco.com. Email jaimelicauco@yahoo.com.

Nutritional regimen for faster skin healing, better complexion

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

A THOUSAND and one regimens and innumerable solutions are available to you when speaking of beauty.

Here are answers to some of your questions to guide you along the way to looking better.

My skin is so sensitive that a mere insect bite or scratch will take weeks to heal. What is wrong with me?

There is nothing seriously wrong with you unless you are already a diabetic. As we all know, wound healing takes longer if your blood sugar levels are high or you are a borderline diabetic. Eliminate this concern by visiting your doctor. The necessary blood test should reveal any problems.

Barring any health challenges, know that Asian skin is more sensitive to scarring and blemishes than our Caucasian counterparts. However, here is a nutritional regimen guaranteed to speed up wound healing and collagen production because intake of fresh vegetables and vitamin C-rich fruits like leafy greens citrus fruits and kiwi, guava, papaya, etc. Vitamin E (sunflowerseeds), vitamin C and copper work best together. All stimulate the body to grow new tissues needed to repair the damaged cells.

Try to have it didn't use chromium-1 your sugar intake. Avoided discipline to follow it on during no-sugar days, whether RPW or everyday would be a good start.

Does beauty begin in the brain?

Absolutely! But brain needs signals to every cell in the body—that's about 300 million cells and more. And who controls the brain if not you? Feel your mind has the power to create illness or wellness.

But wait, there is an even more physical connection. They are called neuropeptides, strings of amino acids that can be found in abundance in the human body. They have activity both in the brain and the skin. Why? Because when we were still embryos, the very same layers of cells that made up the brain were later, now a businessman, that he had been told the story on two separate occasions that I once hit a baseball so hard it flew high up in the sky and was never recovered. When John told me about that, I recently laughed because I have never played baseball, not even in my dreams!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

Fine gifts of song for the holidays

REVIEW

Susan Boyle, *The Gift* (Sony Music)

The Britain's Got Talent" singing sensation continues to dazzle with this album, **top-ranked simultaneously** in the UK and US. Little wonder. It's like a homecoming for the former church choir member, singing beloved Christmas carols and a surprise. Crowded House hit, "Don't Dream It's Over" (1987). Is it just the holidays again or, or did her voice get a little more exquisite? To hear is to believe.

The Priests, Noël (Sony Music)

Brothers Fr. Eugene and Fr. Martin O'Donoghue, Irish Catholic priests, and their friend Fr. David Delargy, hardly need orchestration to make listeners "Sing Dong Merrily On High." We get the joyous event, anyway, making ye faithful love little drummer boys all over again, banking in those silent nights.

LEA SALONGA
...YOUR SONGS

Jovit has 2 entries each on OPM, overall charts

THE TOP-SELLING albums in the country for the week Nov. 8-14, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) Taylor Swift, "Speak Now (Deluxe Edition)," MCA Music; 2) Jovit Baldivino, "Pakilabutin," Star Records; 3) Jovit Baldivino, "I'll Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 4) Various Artists, "The Magic Of Jingle Bells & Friends," Warner Music; 5) Various Artists, "Non-Stop Pilipino Christmas Medley: Aamig Ako," AMD Music; 6) Carol Banawa, "My Music, My Life," Star Records; 7) Lea Salonga, "Your Songs," Sony Music; 8) Various Artists, "Ngayong Paskong Magkakapamilya," Star Records; 9) Jose Mari Chan, "Christmas In Our Hearts," Universal Records; 10) Various Artists, "Christmas Medley," Disc Makers; 11) Sarah Geronimo, "I Love Acoustic 3," MCA Music; 12) Richard Poon, "I'll Be Seeing You (Special Edition)," MCA Music

JOVIT Baldivino

OPM

1) Jovit Baldivino, "Pakilabutin," Star Records; 2) Jovit Baldivino, "I'll Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 3) Various Artists, "Non-Stop Pilipino Christmas Medley: Aamig Ako," AMD Music; 4) Carol Banawa, "My Music, My Life," Star Records; 5) Lea Salonga, "Your Songs," Sony Music; 6) Various Artists, "Ngayong Paskong Magkakapamilya," Star Records; 7) Jose Mari Chan, "Christmas In Our Hearts," Universal Records; 8) Various Artists, "Christmas Medley," Disc Makers; 9) Sarah Geronimo, "I Love Acoustic 3," MCA Music; 10) Richard Poon, "I'll Be Seeing You (Special Edition)," MCA Music

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- LUCY
- SUSPIRIA
- UNSTOPPABLE

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- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 2
- UNSTOPPABLE

METRO EAST

- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 1
- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 2
- MELANIE
- UNSTOPPABLE

NOVALICHES

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- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 1

BUS

- UNSTOPPABLE
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- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 2
- SUSPIRIA

ANGELES

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- UNSTOPPABLE
- MELANIE
- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 2

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- UNSTOPPABLE
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- UNSTOPPABLE
- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 1
- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 2

ILOILO

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- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 2
- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 1
- PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3
- UNSTOPPABLE

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- HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PT 2
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- PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3

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CHRIS Colfer

'Glee' cast cover tops iTunes list

THE TOP 10 singles and albums on iTunes for the week ending Nov 19:

Singles

1) "Teenage Dream (Glee Cast Version)," Glee Cast; 2) "We R Who We R," Ke$ha; 3) "Firework," Katy Perry; 4) "Take Your Glass," Pink; 5) "The Time (Dirty Bit)," Black Eyed Peas;

TAYLOR Swift

6) "What's My Name?," Rihanna Drake; 7) "Like a 0.6," The Cannons, Ft. Lazi Movement, Dev; 8) "Dance (A Little Bit Closer)," Sean Kingston; 9) "Start a Dream," Nelly; 10) "Bottom Up (feat. Nicki Minaj)," Trey Songz.

Albums

1) "Shut Up the Moon Ft. The Legend of 88," Rihanna; 2) "Loud," Rihanna; 3) "Speak Now," Taylor Swift; 4) "The Lady Killer," Bruno Mars; 5) "My Kinda Party," Jason Aldean; 6) "Sigh No More," Mumford & Sons; 7) "All Ri," Alter Bridge; 8) "Best Days Ever," Ernest Ellis," Ben Jave; 9) "The Gift," Vince Boyle; 9) "Come Around Sundown," Kings of Leon; 10) "Teenage Dream," Katy Perry.

(Charts is ironically applicable) AP

Fine...

From page B1

Lea Salonga, ...Your Songs (Sony Music

The hit concert is on CD—and a bonus DVD in one package from those who never believed Lea was versatile would be surprised. She can...Journey, Bette Green, The Dawn — and Annie's more—Angels Laid Me Down, Angel And Me. I on the list of requests from fans: "Bayan ko." We got goose bumps when the children's choir, Liberia, performed this patriotic Pinoy song, but it takes a Filipino artist to really do it justice. Emmie O. Veneracion

'Awards fatigue'

Too many in PH, says Parnas head

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THERE ARE TOO MANY award-giving bodies in the country.

Who's complaining? The president of the oldest awards group in the country...the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas). "The industry is suffering from an awards fatigue," explained Angelo Padua. "This year's Famas was pushed back for a month because the producers couldn't get sponsors."

The movie press has two gangs (rating, mainly) – PMPC Star and Entertainment Golden Screen. There are other – and academy-based awards....Urian, Young Critics' Circle, Gawad Tanglaw and Manila the Mus Academy of the Philippines' Luna awards). Four years ago, a Famas awards group was assigned to hand out to-own trophies, the Gawad Clara.

Padua said the 36th Famas Awards will definitely be held on Dec. 12 at Solaire Cinema. This year's nominees include independent productions. Brillante Mendoza's "Kinatay" is vying for Best Director and Best Picture. Mendoza's Brendan's "Last Viewing" is in the running for Best Actress (Jaclyn de Belen), Child Actress (Mara Sheguidan) and Story (Brendan and Bernardo Audinezas).

Joel Lamangan's "Dukot" and "Ingrids Inside" compete for Best Picture, Director, Actress (Isa Calzado, "Dukot"; Lovi Poe, "Ingrids"), Actor (Allen Dizon, "Dukot"), Supporting Actress (Lui Aligan, "Dukot"; Gloria Diaz, "Ingrids"), Supporting Actor (Dolven Arevalo, "Dukot"; Emilio Garcia, "Ingrids").

Neal Tan's "Dalidi" is vying for Best Supporting Actor (Sunny Serrano) and Child Actor (JP Librado). Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Kamandag Kabuy" is in the race for Best Child Actor (Hash Aguas, Rubee Villar) and Sarah Tapanila's "Dead na si Lolo" for Supporting Actress (Maridjan Reyes) and Child Actor (Ric Rebaso). Joyce Bernal's "Sisterna Diaz" runs for Best Actress (Sharon Cuneta, Supporting Actress (Shaina Quintellon).

From mainstream movies: Jose Antonio...Sharon Cuneta ("Mano Po 6"), Sarah Geronimo ("You Changed My Life"), Angelica Panganiban ("I Love You Goodbye"), Bea Alonzo – Gabby Concepcion ("I Love You"), John Lloyd Cruz ("In My Life," "Ako Ikaw"), Piolo Pascual ("Love Me Again"), Bong Revilla ("Ang Probinsyano").

Phoem sad to leave 'TV Patrol'

PHOEMELA Barandas has no ill feelings for Kuya Kim Atienza, who replaced her on "TV Patrol."

"All is well between Kuya and I," Phoem clarifies. "I'm sincerely happy for her. It's only natural that I'm sad. I'm no longer in 'Patrol.' But I've come to accept the fact that, at some point, I have to move on and take the next step. I will have a new show, but the details are still being ironed out."

Dolly Wood

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Goodbye Wayward

My deepest condolences to the family of a beloved colleague, Wyngard Dany. The 90's star very close to my heart. He practically watched me grow.

My heartfelt memory of him is celebrating our birthdays at his old club, Music Hall. He always made sure that my party would be unforgettable and he even let his friends, Hale 8, perform a mini-concert at my birthday celebration.

Thanks, Tito Wyn for loving me like your own. You are an irreplaceable loss in the industry. I take comfort in the thought that you and mom are now partying in heaven.

Not preggy

Vivian Velez was rumored at an obstetrician's office for a gynecologic check. She's not pregnant. My source says she just had to undergo a medical procedure. So, Ms. Filipinas is not running into Quinay Filipinas.

Sweet tweets

Lie Ely's tweets these days show that she is super-inspired. She quoted a line from a song which goes "When the world needs more love sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of."

Trendster Agudon seems to have a good effect on her. Liz is now living in-or-out, or is it more of a yellow-colored world for her?

Best gift

What's the Christmas gift that Ogie Alcasid wants to receive and the one he likes to get the least?

"I love receiving cards that have been personally written," he says. "Gifts that have not been given any thought or effort are the least exciting to receive."

The groom-to-be is more excited than nervous for his wedding and this one he likes to get the least?

"I have been to quite a few weddings (not all Christmas gifts combined. I must say, he's right – they're very nice. I'm looking forward to my own. I'm not nervous at all. I'm excited."

Ogie and Liz are planning a belated honeymoon in Italy next year. Their marriage would host all Christmas gifts combined. I must say, he's right – they're very nice. I'm looking forward to my own. I'm not nervous at all. I'm excited."

PHOEMELA Barandas, left, says she's happy for Gretchen Fullido, who replaced her in "Star Patrol."

BELATED honeymoon in Italy for Ogie and Regine

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Animated movie on Facebook

SAN FRANCISCO—Hayden S Media and Bluewater Produc tions are set to turn the comic book "Mark Zuckerberg Creator of Facebook" into a short animated film for TV in the style of the 2006 sci ence fiction work, "A Scanner Darkly."

CHEER FACTOR

Said Hayden president Eric Gallibli, will be scare Bold Wiseman, "It's a great ch ance because opportunity to tell the story past (the feature film) 'David Screech' is a neighbor animated hero that could be enjoyed and under stood by a broader audience."

The comic book, written by Jerome Maida and drawn by

AFP

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

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